



AFGHANISTAN

Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA) 2020

Thematic Factsheet Booklet

August-September 2020

Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA) key findings

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September 2020

CONTEXT

Decades of conflict and recurrent natural disasters, compounded by chronic poverty and under-development only worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, have led to devastating levels of need in Afghanistan. As the estimated number of people in need continues to grow year on year, the necessity of evidence-based decision making and prioritization through joint inter-sectoral analysis has only become clearer.

To ensure this evidence base, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)-led Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT) implemented the third round of the WoAA, facilitated by REACH Initiative (REACH). First conducted in 2018, the assessment, timed with key milestones in the Humanitarian Project Cycle (HPC), provides high-quality, representative data to humanitarian decision-makers and implementers to inform the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and multi-year Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). For more information, please consult the WoAA 2020 Terms of Reference ([ToR](#)).

METHODOLOGY

WoAA 2020 is a quantitative, household-level assessment, which targeted 13,147 households across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, using stratified cluster sampling. Data collection took place from 08 August to 14 September 2020, by REACH and 11 partner organizations. Due to COVID-19, changes from WoAA 2019 were made: the questionnaire was shortened, focus group discussions (FGDs) were eliminated, and the number of households assessed was reduced. For further information regarding COVID-19 measures, please consult the [COVID-19 SOP](#). Findings are statistically representative of the displaced population (IDPs and cross-border (CB) returnees) at province level, with a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error. Furthermore, findings for all targeted population groups (listed in the 'assessment sample' below) are representative at the national level with the same level of precision.

The WoAA 2020 questionnaire included indicators covering all 11 active Clusters and Sub-Clusters in Afghanistan, including: Education in Emergencies (EIE), Emergency

Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES-NFI), Food Security and Agriculture (FSA), Health, Nutrition, Protection, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), as well as key inter-sectoral themes. Indicators were selected by the ICCT and respective clusters and technical experts, and were aligned with core questions from the global Joint Inter-sectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF).

To ensure a truly comprehensive and nationwide evidence-base, a further 3,553 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted in 120 hard-to-reach (HTR) districts, spread across 25 provinces. HTR findings are indicative and cannot be generalized to the entire population living in HTR areas. Data was collected between 19 July 2020 and 02 August 2020.²

This thematic factsheet booklet covers the following inter-sectoral themes: Accountability to Affected People (AAP), COVID-19, Disability, Shock and Displacement. The booklet also includes an analysis of findings reported by female respondents in male-headed households. Themes were selected based on relevancy to the Afghan humanitarian context.

Assessment sample

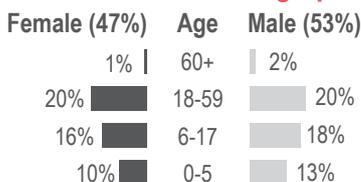
WoAA 2020 Component

Households	13,147
- Recent CB returnee	1,040
- Non-recent CB returnee	903
- Recent IDP	4,375
- Non-recent IDP	3,995
- Pakistani refugee	414
- Vulnerable non-displaced	2,420

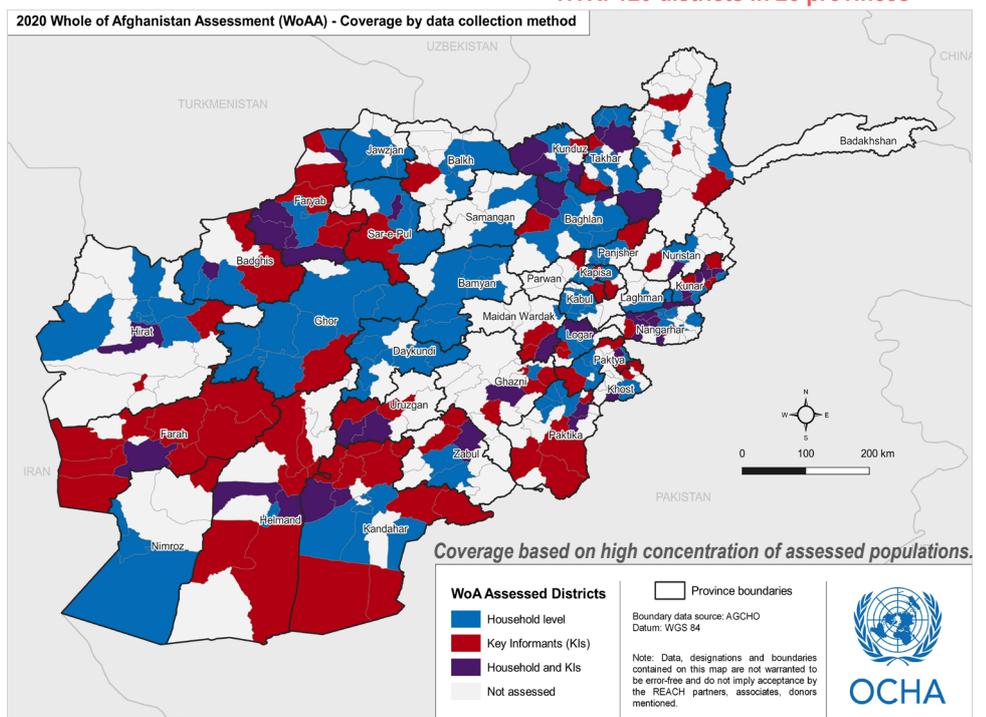
HtR Component

- KIIs:	3,533
- Settlements:	3,533
- Districts:	120

WoAA 2020 Demographics³



Coverage map



¹ Targeted population groups included recent (within the 6 months prior to data collection) and non-recent cross-border (CB) returnee households, recent and non-recent internally displaced (IDP) households, Pakistani refugee households, and vulnerable non-displaced households in [IPC 3/ FEWS NET 3](#) and [IPC 4/FEWS NET 4](#) provinces. Displaced populations refers to all CB returnee and IDP households.

² The HTR assessment is similarly an ICCT-led process facilitated by REACH to ensure comprehensive nationwide understanding of needs. Further details on the methodology can be found [here](#).

³ The following analysis only includes displaced populations.



Accountability to Affected People (AAP) Findings

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% of displaced households that reported not knowing how to access humanitarian aid:¹

73%

% of displaced households aware of complaint and feedback mechanisms regarding humanitarian aid:



% of households who did not know how to access humanitarian aid, per population group:²

Recent IDP	74%	<div style="width: 74%;"></div>
Non-recent IDP	73%	<div style="width: 73%;"></div>
Recent CB returnee	75%	<div style="width: 75%;"></div>
Non-recent CB returnee	68%	<div style="width: 68%;"></div>
Pakistani refugee	44%	<div style="width: 44%;"></div>
Vulnerable non-displaced	96%	<div style="width: 96%;"></div>

Of those, most commonly known mechanisms:

Local aid organization office	64%	<div style="width: 64%;"></div>
Local government office	46%	<div style="width: 46%;"></div>
Organization contact number	23%	<div style="width: 23%;"></div>
Awaaz (410 phone number) ⁴	18%	<div style="width: 18%;"></div>
Government contact number	15%	<div style="width: 15%;"></div>
Comments/suggestions box	8%	<div style="width: 8%;"></div>

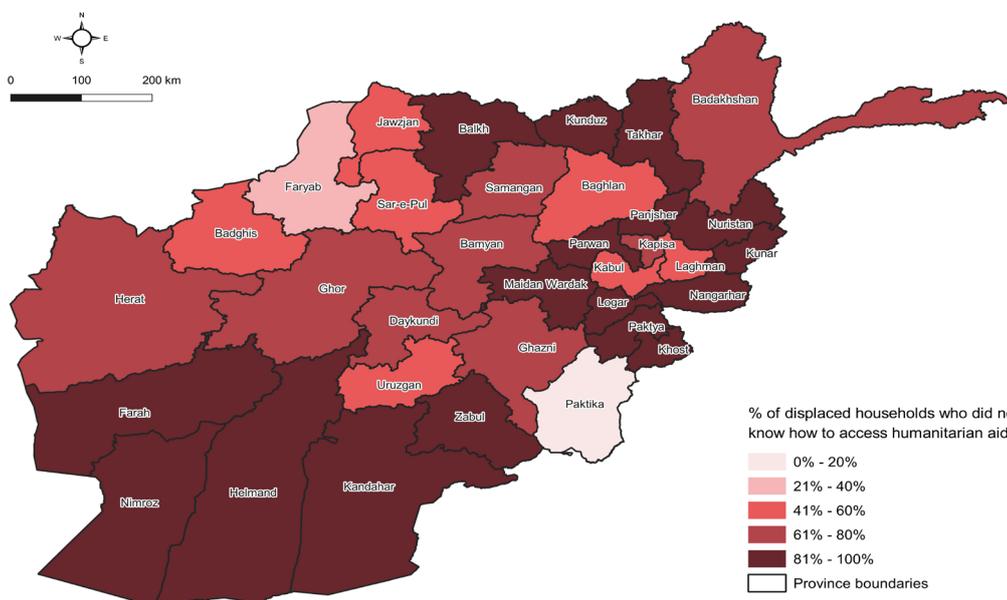
% of displaced households who did not know how to access humanitarian aid, per vulnerability type:³

Households with a disability	68%	<div style="width: 68%;"></div>
Elderly-headed households	74%	<div style="width: 74%;"></div>
Female-headed households	73%	<div style="width: 73%;"></div>

% of displaced households by preferred ways of reporting exploitation and abuse by aid providers:⁵

Via a community leader	57%	<div style="width: 57%;"></div>
Via a religious leader	16%	<div style="width: 16%;"></div>
Via phone (call or sms)	13%	<div style="width: 13%;"></div>

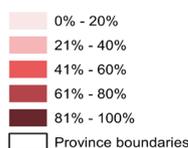
% of displaced households who did not know how to access humanitarian aid, per province:



Top five provinces with the highest proportion of displaced households who did not know how to access humanitarian aid:

1. Kunar **100%**
2. Helmand **99%**
3. Nimroz **99%**
4. Paktya **99%**
5. Parwan **98%**

% of displaced households who did not know how to access humanitarian aid



¹ Displaced households included both recent (under 6 months) and non-recent (6 months or more) internally displaced persons (IDPs) and cross-border (CB) returnees.

² Targeted population groups included recent (within the 6 months prior to data collection) and non-recent cross-border (CB) returnee households, recent and non-recent internally displaced (IDP) households, Pakistani refugee households, and vulnerable non-displaced households in IPC 3/ FEWS NET 3 and IPC 4/FEWS NET 4 provinces. Displaced populations refers to all CB returnee and IDP households.

³ Households with a pre-existing vulnerability included households with at least one disabled member, elderly-headed households, and female-headed households. To define disability, respondents were asked the short form of the Washington Group Questionnaire. Elderly heads of household were defined as heads of household 65 years of age or older.

⁴ Awaaz Afghanistan is a nation-wide humanitarian call center. For more information, please see this [link](#).

⁵ These were the three most frequently reported methods. Multiple selections were possible. Response options included community leader, comments and suggestions box, phone (call or sms), police and local authorities, and other.





% of displaced households, per top three reported priority needs and vulnerability profile:⁶

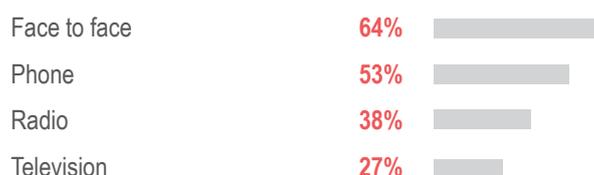
% of displaced households....	Drinking water	Education for children under 18 years	Employment or livelihood support	Food	Healthcare	Housing or shelter	Hygiene NFIs or sanitation	Repay debt
Household head profile								
With an elderly head:	17%	7%	44%	85%	45%	55%	4%	39%
With a non-elderly head:	10%	6%	46%	83%	41%	68%	3%	38%
With a female head:	7%	8%	29%	86%	50%	68%	4%	43%
With a male head:	10%	6%	46%	83%	41%	68%	3%	38%
Household profile								
One or more household members have a disability:	20%	8%	40%	85%	44%	56%	5%	39%
No household members have a disability:	9%	6%	47%	82%	40%	70%	2%	38%

% of displaced households, per preferred method of receiving assistance:



Among the **72%** of households that received cash assistance, the most frequently reported use was **food (93%)**, followed by **healthcare (45%)** and **debt repayment (22%)**.

Most common means of obtaining information reported by displaced households:



% of displaced households without at least one literate household member over the age of 10 years: **53%**

HARD-TO-REACH (HtR) AAP FINDINGS

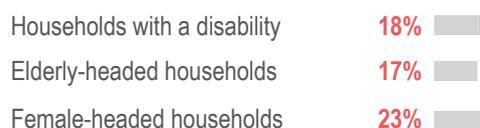
32% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that **at least one resident had received assistance** in the 3 months prior to data collection.

In those settlements, top 3 assistance types reportedly received:



7% of displaced respondents reported access to **both internet and mobile networks** while **79%** reported **only access to mobile** and **1%** reported **only access to internet**. **13%** reported **no access to either**.⁷

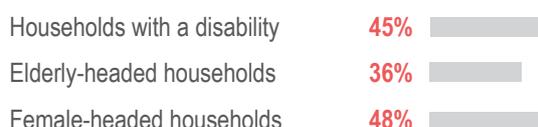
% of displaced households with no access to neither internet nor a mobile network, per vulnerability type:⁷



% of displaced households reporting that no household members own a sim card: **40%**



% of displaced households reporting that no household member owns a sim card, per vulnerability type:



!! HtR findings are based on interviews with KIs at a settlement level and should be considered indicative only. For more information regarding HtR, please see the following [link](#).

Top 3 reported priority needs for most residents in assessed settlements:



⁶ Respondents were asked to name the household's three priority needs.

⁷ Respondents were asked if the household had regular access (self-defined) to mobile or internet networks. Response options included both, only mobile, only internet, and none.

METHODOLOGY

To better understand the needs of household members and reduce gender bias, male-female enumerator pairs conducted face to face interviews with both the head of household and a household member of the opposite gender in 2,910 households from 08 August 2020 to 14 September 2020. These dual interviews were conducted in displaced households where it was jointly deemed both accessible and safe to do so by REACH and local partners. Eleven provinces: Balkh, Bamyan, Daykundi, Herat, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Laghman, Panjsher, Samangan, and Takhar, were included. Interviews were conducted with almost identical questionnaires. The following is an analysis of female respondents (female household members) living in displaced, male-headed households. These findings are not statistically representative.

Number of female respondents interviewed: 2,910¹

Recent IDP	1,189
Non-recent IDP	1,120
Recent CB returnee	224
Non-recent CB returnee	143
Pakistani refugee	188
Vulnerable non-displaced	46

74% of displaced female respondents reported living in households with **no literate female members** over the age of 10 years.

% of displaced female respondents interviewed, per highest education level achieved by a household member:

None	50%
Primary	26%
Secondary (formal)	8%
Secondary (vocational/technical)	14%
University	2%

48% of displaced female respondents reported living in informal settlements.²

% of female respondents reporting being...	Unable to access the market unaccompanied	Unable to access the primary water source unaccompanied	Unable to independently earn an income	Unable to independently access a phone
Displaced: ¹	40%	14%	84%	32%
Recent IDP:	23%	10%	76%	40%
Non-recent IDP:	41%	14%	87%	33%
Recent CB:	20%	10%	78%	25%
Non-recent CB:	38%	19%	59%	21%

5% of displaced female respondents reported being **unable to independently access any of the above.**

Most reported income sources by displaced female respondents either earning an income or feeling that they can earn an income, by income type:³

Daily labor - no contract	72%
Small business	11%
Agriculture	7%

% of displaced female respondents earning an income through home-based activities:



44% of displaced female respondents reported **having a say in how all household income was spent** while **19%** of female members reported **having a say in how some household income was spent.**

Of the displaced female respondents reporting no independent access to a phone, % by barrier:

No phone available	62%
Restricted access to phone	29%
Cost of phone calls too expensive	9%
Other	5%
No network	0%

80% of displaced female respondents did **not know how to access humanitarian aid.** 90% of displaced female respondents were **unaware of any complaint or feedback mechanism regarding humanitarian aid.**

Most reported methods of obtaining information among displaced female respondents:

Face to face	83%
Phone	38%
Community group	36%

¹ Assessed populations included both recent (under 6 months) and non-recent (over 6 months) internally displaced persons (IDPs) and recent (under 6 months) and non-recent (over 6 months) crossborder (CB) returnees.

² Respondents were asked if the majority of household members lived in an area where the household had permission to live or build.

³ Respondents were asked if they had worked or felt that they could have gone to work in the 30 days prior to data collection. 16% said yes and were asked what type of work.

% of displaced households reporting that the household experienced COVID-19 as a major event in the year prior to data collection:¹ **45%**

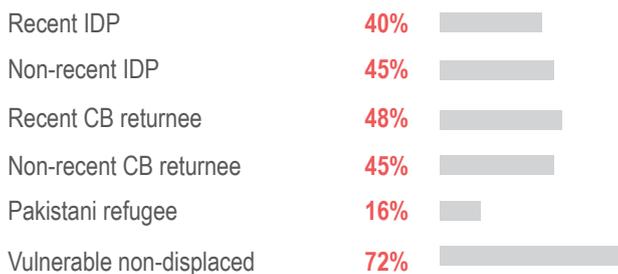
% of displaced households reporting COVID-19 as a protection concern at the time of data collection:



Of households that reported COVID-19 as a major event, reported impacts of COVID-19 by impact type:²

% of households....	Displaced	Recent IDP	Non-recent IDP	Recent CB returnee	Non-recent CB returnee	Pakistani refugee	Vulnerable non-displaced
Decreased/lost income	96%	90%	96%	93%	94%	99%	96%
Limited access to basic services	35%	40%	31%	48%	52%	62%	30%
Limited access to clean water/sanitation	9%	12%	8%	15%	10%	2%	1%
Limited access to education	35%	10%	31%	46%	47%	20%	34%
Limited access to food	68%	76%	66%	77%	66%	94%	69%
Sickness/death of family member	50%	48%	53%	45%	36%	60%	57%
Other	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%

% of households reporting COVID-19 as a major event in the year prior to data collection, per population group:³



% of households reporting COVID-19 as a major event in the year prior to data collection, per vulnerability type:⁴



97% of displaced households were aware of COVID-19 at the time of data collection. Of households that were aware, **13%** reported taking no action against COVID-19.

32% of displaced households reported a serious illness in the 30 days prior to data collection.

Among the **81%** of displaced households which resorted to a coping strategy due to a serious illness, most commonly reported strategies:

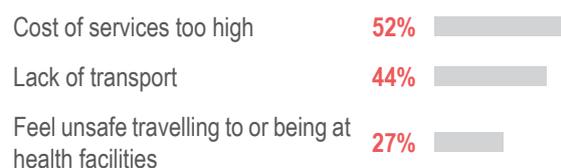


Of the **78%** of displaced children (6-18 years old) attending school 4 or more days a week prior to COVID-19, **94%** reportedly not pursuing education remotely:



82% of displaced households reported an increase in debt in the year prior to data collection. Of the **84%** of displaced households reporting debt, **55%** of households reported food while **16%** of households reported healthcare as the primary reason for debt.

17% of displaced households reported no access to an active healthcare center in the 3 months prior to data collection. Among households reporting no access, most commonly reported barriers to access:



21% of displaced households did not have soap at the time of data collection. Among the households without soap, **70%** reported that soap is too expensive (most reported barrier to access).

¹ Displaced populations included both recent (under 6 months) and non-recent (over 6 months) internally displaced persons (IDPs) and crossborder (CB) returnees.

² Respondents were asked if COVID-19 was a major event which impacted the majority of household members within the year prior to data collection. If yes, respondents were then asked what the impacts of COVID-19 were. Multiple choices possible.

³ Assessed populations included recent (under 6 months) and non-recent (more than 6 months) IDPs and CB returnees, Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktika, and vulnerable, non-displaced populations in provinces where the majority households were found to have food consumption gaps in the Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC) "crisis" (3) and "emergency" (4) categories and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) "crisis" (3) and "emergency" (4) categories.

⁴ Households with a pre-existing vulnerability included households with at least one disabled member, elderly-headed households, and female-headed households. To define disability, respondents were asked the short form of the Washington Group Questionnaire.

Shock and Displacement Key Findings

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% of displaced households that reported a shock in the year prior to data collection:¹

90%

% of displaced households that reported two or more shocks in the year prior to data collection:



Of displaced households that reported a shock in the year prior to data collection, by population group and shock type:

% of displaced households...	Displaced	Recent IDP	Non-recent IDP	Recent CB returnee	Non-recent CB returnee
Active conflict:	72%	90%	75%	59%	59%
Avalanche/heavy snowfall:	3%	0%	3%	3%	2%
COVID-19:	45%	40%	45%	48%	45%
Drought:	11%	3%	11%	13%	11%
Earthquake:	1%	4%	1%	2%	2%
Flood:	13%	8%	10%	10%	14%
Other:	10%	7%	9%	15%	11%
None:	11%	3%	9%	14%	17%

Among displaced households reporting 1 or more non-COVID-19 shocks, most commonly reported impacts:



12% of recent IDP households intended to return to their area of origin (AoO) at time of data collection, compared to 3% of recent CB returnee households.²

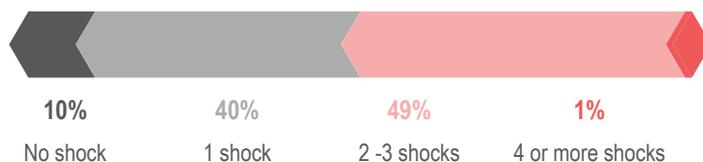
Of the IDP households intending to remain in the current location, 50% reported never intending to return to their area of origin (AoO), while the others most commonly reported that the following would help them return to their AoO:³



Most commonly reported movement intentions for the majority of members in CB returnee households in the six months following data collection:



% of displaced households per number of shocks:



% of displaced households per number of shocks, per population group:

	No shock	1 shock	2-3 shocks	4 or more shocks
Recent IDP	3%	48%	48%	0%
Non-recent IDP	9%	41%	49%	1%
Recent CB returnee	14%	38%	48%	1%
Non-recent CB returnee	17%	35%	47%	0%

% of IDP households, per reported number of times internally displaced:



78% of IDP households reported active conflict or violence as the "final push" towards displacement, followed by unemployment/poverty (16%) and anticipated conflict/violence (3%).

¹ Displaced populations included both recent (under 6 months) and non-recent (over 6 months) internally displaced persons (IDPs) and recent (under 6 months) and non-recent (over 6 months) crossborder (CB) returnees.

² CB returnees households are Afghan households that were forcibly displaced crossborder, due to conflict or natural-disaster, and have since returned to Afghanistan (not necessarily to area of origin). This includes both 'registered' (legally registered in the country of displacement) and non-registered returnees.

³ Multiple selections possible.

Households with Disabilities¹

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% of displaced households with a disability:²

15%

% of displaced households with a disabled head of household



% of households with a disability, per population group:³

Recent IDP	13%
Non-recent IDP	17%
Recent CB returnee	13%
Non-recent CB returnee	18%
Pakistani refugee	9%
Vulnerable non-displaced	17%

% of households with a disability and another vulnerability, per vulnerability type:⁴

Elderly-headed households	13%
Female-headed households	5%

Among households with a disability, **61%** were found to be in the **emergency LCSI category**. Among households with a disability, the most commonly reported LCSI coping strategies were:⁵

Borrowed food or money to buy food	87%
Sold household assets (furniture, jewelry, television, etc.)	33%
Engaged in extreme or high-risk activities (self-defined)	32%

68% of households with a disability **relied on unstable sources for primary or secondary income** compared with **56%** of displaced households without a disability.

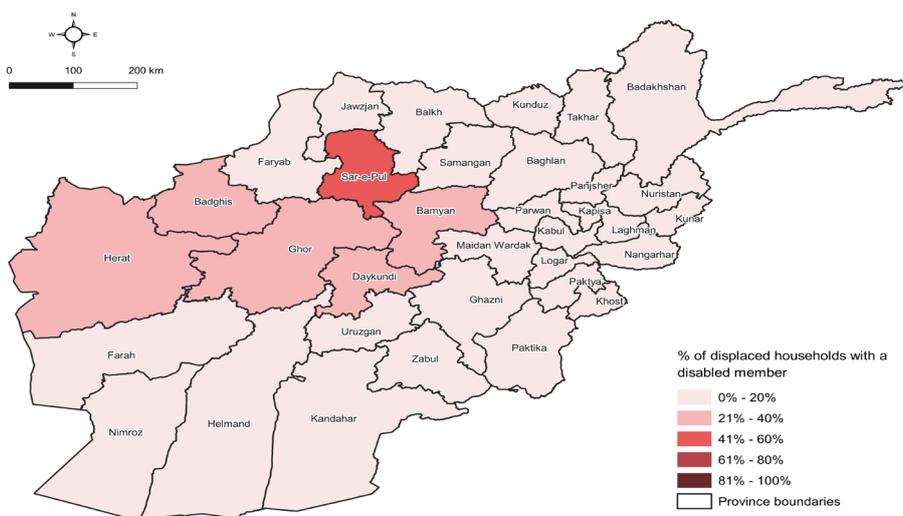
Reported unstable income sources by households with a disability, by income source:

Daily labor - no contract	77%
Loans	29%
Government or humanitarian assistance	9%
Gifts or remittances	6%
Sold household assets	1%

14% of households with a disability reported **marrying a daughter earlier than intended** compared with **7%** of displaced households without a disability in the 30 days prior to data collection.

19% of households with a disability reported a **boy working outside the household** compared with **12%** of displaced households without a disability in the 30 days prior to data collection..

% of displaced households with at least one disabled member, per province



Top five provinces with highest % of displaced households with disabilities:

1. Sar-e-Pul **60%**
2. Badghis **39%**
3. Daykundi **29%**
4. Herat **24%**
5. Ghor **21%**

¹ Households with disabilities include all households with at least one disabled member. To define disability, respondents were asked the short form of the [Washington Group Questionnaire](#). This analysis is a subset of displaced households and is not representative.

² Displaced populations included both recent (under 6 months) and non-recent (over 6 months) internally displaced persons (IDPs) and crossborder (CB) returnees.

³ Assessed populations included recent (under 6 months) and non-recent (more than 6 months) IDPs and CB returnees, Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktika, and vulnerable, non-displaced populations in provinces where the majority households were found to have food consumption gaps in the Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC) "crisis" (3) and "emergency" (4) categories and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) "crisis" (3) and "emergency" (4) categories.

⁴ Households with a vulnerability included households with a disability, elderly-headed households (head of household is 65 years of age or older) and female-headed households.

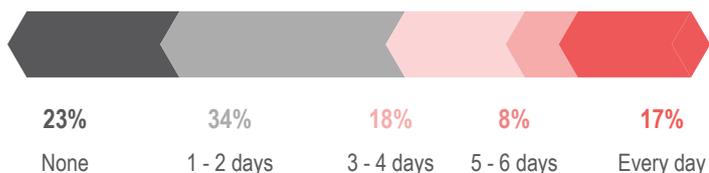
71,434 AFN was the **average debt** for households with a disability, compared with **39,848 AFN** for households without a disability. **Among households with a disability, most reported reasons for debt:**



20% of households with a disability reported **no access to an active healthcare center** in the 3 months prior to data collection. Of these households, **63%** reported **cost of medicines/services as a barrier** followed by **lack of transport (58%)**.

77% of households with a disability reported that the **head of household felt distress** in the two weeks prior to data collection.

% of households, per frequency of distress experienced in one week by the head of household:



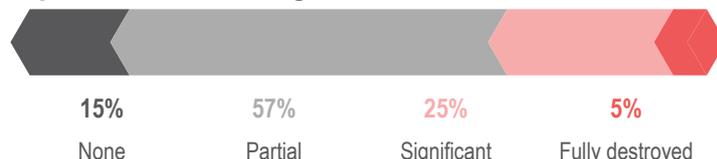
Of households with a disability that reported that the head of household felt distress, **71%** of households reported that this distress affected the head of household's ability to work.

68% of households with a disability reported that at least one member developed a **change in behaviour (sign of mental health concern)** in the year prior to data collection compared with **64%** of households without a disability.⁶ **Among these households, most reported reason for changed behaviour:**



9% of displaced households with a disability lived in an **inadequate shelter** at the time of data collection compared with **6%** of displaced households with no disability.⁷

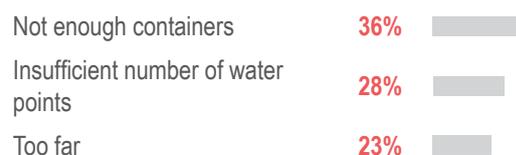
% of households with a disability, per amount of reported shelter damage:



16% of displaced households with a disability reported **insufficient access to water for all basic needs** compared with **6%** of displaced households with no disability.

69% of households with a disability reported an **access barrier to water sources**.

% of households, most reported barriers to accessing water from potable water sources:⁸



% of displaced households with a disability which reported using an unimproved latrine:⁹



40% of households with a disability reported **no soap** compared with **17%** of displaced households without a disability.

% of displaced households with a disability, per most commonly reported means of obtaining information:



18% of displaced households with a disability reported **no access to either internet or mobile network** compared with **12%** of displaced households with no disability.

⁶ Changes in behaviour included angry or aggressive or violent behaviour, avoiding going to work, bedwetting, crying or excessive sadness, significant social withdrawal, substance abuse, unhealthy increase or decrease in sleep or appetite and other.

⁷ Inadequate shelters include collective centers, open spaces, and tents.

⁸ 31% of displaced households with a disability reported no access barriers to potable water sources.

⁹ Unimproved latrines include family pit latrine without slab / open, no facility (open field, dearan, bush), and other.

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Afghanistan Inter-Cluster Coordination Team



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FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER
Strengthening Humanitarian Response



HEALTH CLUSTER
AFGHANISTAN



WASH Cluster
Water Sanitation Hygiene



Shelter Cluster Afghanistan
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



Protection Cluster
Afghanistan



AFGHANISTAN
NUTRITION CLUSTER



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ORGANIZATION**



HRRAC
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WCLRF
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**HAND IN HAND
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RAADA

About REACH:

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).



THEMATIC FACTSHEETS

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