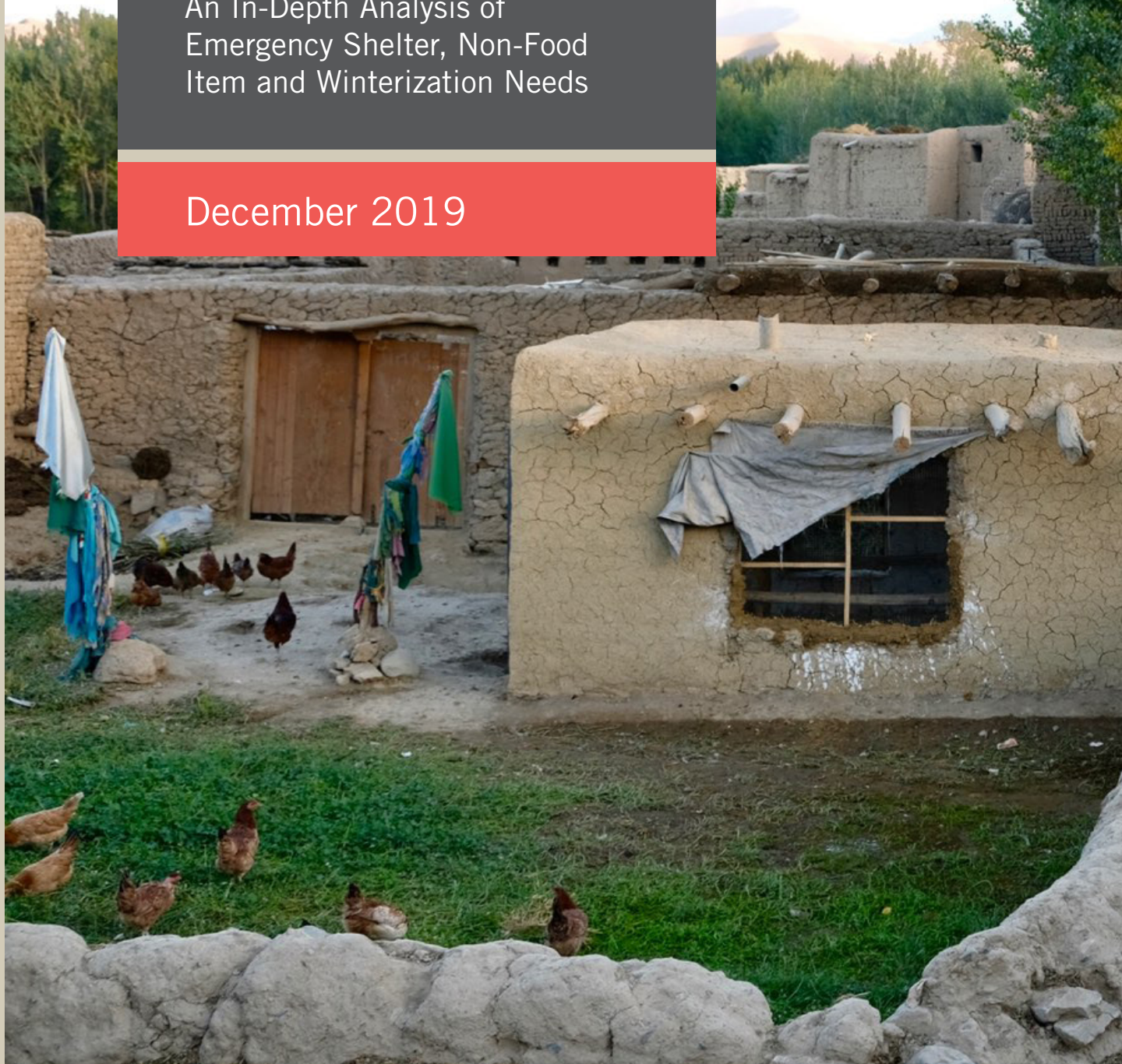


AFGHANISTAN

# ES/NFI Assessment

An In-Depth Analysis of  
Emergency Shelter, Non-Food  
Item and Winterization Needs

December 2019



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH**

Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

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### **About REACH**

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH's mission is to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information please visit our website: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org) and follow us on Twitter @REACH\_info.

## SUMMARY

### Context

After 40 years of continued humanitarian crisis, Afghanistan remains one of the world's most complex humanitarian emergencies, driven by escalating conflict and devastating natural disasters. Displacement undermines individuals' self-protection capacity, triggering unwanted coping mechanisms that put them at risk. According to the 2019 HNO, more than 39% of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and returnees reportedly live in makeshift shelters, and 32% noted the need for adequate shelter as their greatest priority.<sup>1</sup> In 2019, the return of rains after the 2018 drought caused an increase in the number of people affected by flooding. An estimated 280,000 people were impacted by unseasonal flooding across the country, affecting households in areas not accustomed to the shock nor recovery from these events.<sup>2</sup> The HNO estimates that an additional 200,000 people will need humanitarian assistance due to sudden-onset disasters in 2020, including landslides and flash floods.<sup>3</sup>

The 2019 Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA)<sup>4</sup> provided a national and regional overview of critical shelter and NFI needs across multiple crisis-affected population groups. However, it has only a limited capacity to provide more nuanced and localized information to guide programmatic responses in the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item (ES/NFI) cluster, and does not describe the unique differences in shelter needs between Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), host communities, and non-displaced disaster affected populations.

Given the growing need for immediate and appropriate shelter aid, there exists a gap of detailed ES/NFI data to inform sector programming and identify specific needs which require urgent intervention. In particular, an evidence base was needed to understand the key challenges and coping strategies related to ES/NFI; how these needs, challenges and coping strategies are distributed and inter-related across different population groups; and preferences in modalities of aid provision related to the ES/NFI response. Combined, this data could contribute towards the development of a comprehensive and evidence-based strategy for the ES/NFI Cluster in Afghanistan.

### Assessment

REACH, in partnership with the Shelter cluster and funded by UNHCR, conducted this assessment in order to address these information gaps. The assessment used a mixed methods approach to collect ES/NFI-specific data and complete an in-depth analysis of needs in four priority provinces of Badakhshan, Herat, Jawzjan and Kandahar for key population groups as identified by the findings of the WoAA. Acknowledging that different population groups have different shelter needs, the project considered three key groups: IDPs, non-displaced disaster affected (NDDA) households and host communities.

A statistically representative household survey was conducted with 5,475 households, which provided results with a confidence level of 95% and margin of error of 5% at the province and targeted population group level. To triangulate and explain household survey findings, 20 focus group discussions (FGDs) were also conducted, one per gender for each population group in each targeted province. Data collection occurred between December 11 – 29, 2019.

### Key Findings

#### Displacement and livelihoods

- Socioeconomic status, livelihoods opportunities, displacement, and exposure to shocks all impacted households differently, and appeared to have the largest overall impact in determining the shelter needs and conditions for each population group.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid

<sup>2</sup> OCHA (2019) Afghanistan: Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> The Whole of Afghanistan Assessment is a multi-sector assessment conducted by REACH, including education, shelter and NFI, food security, health, nutrition, protection and WASH, which provides longitudinal information of needs and severity across population groups and geographic areas, and offers consistent information on the Afghan population for the HNO and HRP processes for prioritizing humanitarian response in the country.



- Host community and NDDA populations reported many similar livelihoods conditions and challenges, and were distinguished mainly by their socioeconomic status. **Low income NDDA households tended to lack the resources to resist or recover from the effects of natural disasters.** Low income host community households noted similar condition, but had not yet been faced with a major shock.
- Most households (93%) reported the majority of household earnings as income from work in the 30 days prior to data collection. The majority of that work reported was low paying and unstable work like unskilled daily labour (64%). Provinces where more of the population was reported to have skilled employment also reported fewer overall concerns with shelter and livelihoods.
- **Natural disaster was found to be the most recent factor driving displacement for a majority of households in the assessed areas.** In FGDs, most IDPs that reported being displaced by conflict had left their areas of origin years prior, and were more recently affected by natural disasters (usually flooding or earthquakes) in their areas of displacement.

### Shelter typologies

- IDP households' shelter needs appeared to be influenced by the amount of time that they had been displaced. Regardless of materials, **the temporary and transitional shelters provided as emergency aid are generally past their intended use and are deteriorating.**
- The majority of Host community and NDDA households live in permanent shelters (86% and 76% respectively), largely made of mud or brick. The quality of these permanent shelters varied depending on the household's socioeconomic status before the shock.
- **The main reported cause of shelter damage was natural disasters (78%).** Nearly all NDDA households experienced shelter damage in the last year, with all but 8% of shelters reported to have sustained at least minor damage.
- The majority of households with damaged shelter reported being unable to make the repairs that they wanted (79%), largely because households could not afford materials (64% of those households who were unable to make repairs).
- While vulnerable households<sup>5</sup> were about 10% less likely to live in a permanent structure and 10% more likely to live in a transitional shelter than the overall population, the reported needs of vulnerable households and the overall population were similar. This indicates that **non-vulnerable groups also suffer from similar shelter and winterization gaps.**

### Living arrangements

- Lower income households and IDPs were pushed into unsecure or illegal agreements which put them at risk of exploitation or eviction. Half of IDP households reported having an insecure tenure agreement, while one in ten NDDA or Host community reported the same.
- The majority of non-displaced households (71%) reported hosting displaced persons in their shelter. A minority of NDDA households (16%) reported hosting displaced persons. NDDA households are already vulnerable and hosting IDPs in their household can add an additional pressure.

### Security and dignity

- Rent is at the forefront of security and dignity in shelter – **over half of IDPs, and 60% of households overall, reported being unable to afford rent in the three months prior to data collection.** IDP households highlighted that the rising costs of repairing a shelter while also paying rent were not possible to sustain. As a result, **over one third of IDP households reported fearing eviction in the next three months** due to an inability to pay rent.
- Households with poorer quality shelter types or materials were more likely to feel unsafe in their shelters. Over half of IDP households and one in four households overall reported feeling unsafe, most commonly due to natural disasters in general, or poor shelter materials failing during natural disasters.

<sup>5</sup> A household was considered vulnerable if it had at least one of the following characteristics: containing at least one member over the age of 65, contains at least one member with a disability or chronic illness, has a female or child household head, or no adults were reported to own a tazkira.

## Challenges and coping mechanisms

- **Households cannot afford to purchase items in local markets, which are open, stocked with shelter material and NFIs which are reasonably priced.** When faced with limited finances and shelter needs, households reported coping by cutting other household expenses, in particular food and healthcare.
- A minority of households reported taking steps to prepare for winter (16%). Most preparations involved stockpiling firewood (or any fuel, such as plastics or dung) and borrowing from friends and relatives.
- Few households reported receiving humanitarian aid in the three months prior to data collection, and those that did receive aid did not receive enough. **Aid diversion was an occasional complaint from households across population groups**, in which individual leaders were believed to be siphoning aid to enrich themselves or specific beneficiaries.

## Priority needs and preferred aid

- **Food, shelter repair and winterization were consistently reported as the priority needs of households.**
- Food was the first priority need of every population group (72%), largely related to the lack of resources households have to cope with shocks, leading households to sacrifice food expenses first when rent was due or shelter repair needed. In addition, the 2020 HNO reports that the same disasters that damaged shelters also damaged large areas of farm land.<sup>6</sup> The requests for food aid may also be a reflection of the loss of crops and other food sources.
- **Shelter aid, specifically shelter repair, is both a long- and short-term need;** transitional shelters are needed as a durable, safe solution to immediate needs, but most households want quality shelter materials and (re)construction of a permanent structure as sustainable protection from shocks.
- Winterization and NFIs are immediate needs. These priority needs do overlap, as households specified fuel, blankets and warm clothing specifically as priority ES/NFI needs.
- **Cash is the preferred form of aid for a majority of households.** Households reported that, if given cash as aid, they would spend it first on food, fuel and shelter repair. These priorities align with standard priorities for winter, the season in which this assessment was conducted.

## Conclusions

This assessment implies several onward strategies for shelter programming in Afghanistan. First, **cash-based programming was a preferred and appreciated form of support**, more so than in-kind distributions. Markets are present in most communities and supply chains are robust, but most households, regardless of displacement status or vulnerability, are unable to afford the goods that they need. Also, as IDPs tend to remain in transitional and emergency shelters for longer than intended, **adjusting programming to providing transitional shelters, with durable and high quality materials, will support households in having safer shelter for the medium-term.** In addition, expanding emergency shelter programming to include follow up distributions, or cash or in-kind materials, would prevent situations of households stretching initial aid well past its lifespan. These provisions will also support in preparation for winter – a key ES/NFI need. Winterization distributions which occur well before the temperature drops are a consistent and urgent need. **Households seem to rely on the support of UN/NGOs to prepare for harsh winters, in particular with heating of shelters – fuel and blankets.** There is a desire throughout the population groups to go beyond shelter repairs to construct new shelters with high quality and durable materials. Providing shelter with strong materials and proper construction techniques from the foundation up will keep households safer in the next natural disaster, prevent future repair costs, and ultimately improve household resilience in the shocks to come. **Households are eager for long-term solutions so shelter maintenance is no longer a burden.**

<sup>6</sup> OCHA (2019) Afghanistan: Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2020.Pg 22

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## List of Acronyms

<b>ES/NFI</b>	Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>HNO</b>	Humanitarian Needs Overview
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Persons
<b>NDDA</b>	Non-Displaced Disaster-Affected
<b>NFI</b>	Non-Food Item
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>SFO</b>	Senior Field Officer
<b>TL</b>	Team Leader
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>WoAA</b>	Whole of Afghanistan Assessment

## Geographical Classifications

<b>Province</b>	Primary administrative division, each encompasses a number of districts
<b>District</b>	Secondary administrative units

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## INTRODUCTION

After 40 years of continued humanitarian crisis, Afghanistan remains one of the world's most complex humanitarian emergencies, driven by escalating conflict and devastating natural disasters. In 2019, the return of rains after the 2018 drought caused a dramatic increase in the number of people affected by flooding; An estimated 280,000 people were impacted by unseasonal flooding across the country, affecting households in areas not accustomed to the shock nor recovery from these events.<sup>7</sup> Displacement has continued to fuel extreme shelter needs, with 1.36 million people displaced for longer than 6 months, in makeshift shelter or tents, with little access to services.<sup>8</sup> The HNO predicts an additional 500,000 people will be newly displaced in 2020, likely facing the same hardships and needs as those in 2019.<sup>9</sup> Beyond displaced persons, the HNO estimates that 200,000 people will need humanitarian assistance due to sudden-onset disasters in 2020, including landslides and flash floods.<sup>10</sup>

Displacement undermines an individual's self-protection capacity, triggering negative coping mechanisms that puts them at greater risk. According to the 2020 HNO, 19% of displaced households reportedly live in makeshift shelters.<sup>11</sup> From the 2019 HNO, 32% of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees noted the need for adequate shelter as their greatest priority need.<sup>12</sup> With Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) provision emerging as a key priority in Afghanistan, the ES/NFI Cluster faces a number of challenges related to the need to ensure an effective response and delivery of basic lifesaving assistance, notably emergency shelter, shelter repair, rental support, NFIs and winterization assistance.

The 2019 Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA)<sup>13</sup> provides a national and regional overview of critical shelter and NFI needs across multiple crisis-affected population groups. However, it has only a limited capacity to provide more nuanced and localized information to guide programmatic responses in the ES/NFI sector, and does not describe the unique differences in shelter needs between IDPs, host communities, and non-displaced, disaster affected populations.

Given the growing need for immediate and appropriate shelter aid, there exists a gap of detailed ES/NFI data to inform sector programming and identify specific needs which require urgent intervention. In particular, an evidence base is needed to understand the key challenges and coping strategies related to ES/NFI; how these needs, challenges and coping strategies vary and inter-relate across different population groups; and preferences in modalities of aid provision related to the ES/NFI response. Combined, this data can contribute towards the development of a comprehensive and evidence-based strategy for the ES/NFI Cluster in Afghanistan.

REACH, in partnership with the ES/NFI cluster and funded by UNHCR, conducted this assessment in order to address this information gap. This assessment used a mixed methods approach to collect ES/NFI-specific data and complete an in-depth analysis of ES/NFI specific needs in four priority provinces and three key population groups as identified by the findings of the WoAA. The four provinces were Badakhshan, Herat, Jawzjan and Kandahar. Acknowledging that different population groups have different shelter needs, the project considered three key groups: IDPs, those affected by natural disasters in 2019, and host communities. Data collection occurred between December 11 and 29, 2019.

This report provides a detailed description of the methodology and why it was chosen, and then outlines the key assessment findings. The findings are organized into six sections: demographics, displacement and livelihoods of population groups; shelter typologies, damage and repair; living arrangements and tenure; security and dignity within shelters; challenges with shelter aid and coping mechanisms; and priority needs and preferred aid.

<sup>7</sup> OCHA (2019) Afghanistan: Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2020.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> Ibid

<sup>12</sup> OCHA (2018), Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2019.

<sup>13</sup> The Whole of Afghanistan Assessment is a multi-sector assessment conducted by REACH, including education, shelter and NFI, food security, health, nutrition, protection and WASH, which provides longitudinal information of needs and severity across population groups and geographic areas, and offers consistent information on the Afghan population for the HNO and HRP processes for prioritizing humanitarian response in the country.

## METHODOLOGY

This assessment used quantitative and qualitative primary data collection methods to assess the needs of three target populations of interest in Afghanistan, identified as strata with differing sectoral needs by the ES/NFI cluster. Four provinces of interest were selected based on the ES/NFI sectoral needs identified in the WoAA findings. Data collection activities included statistically representative household surveys and focus group discussions (FGD) with affected populations.

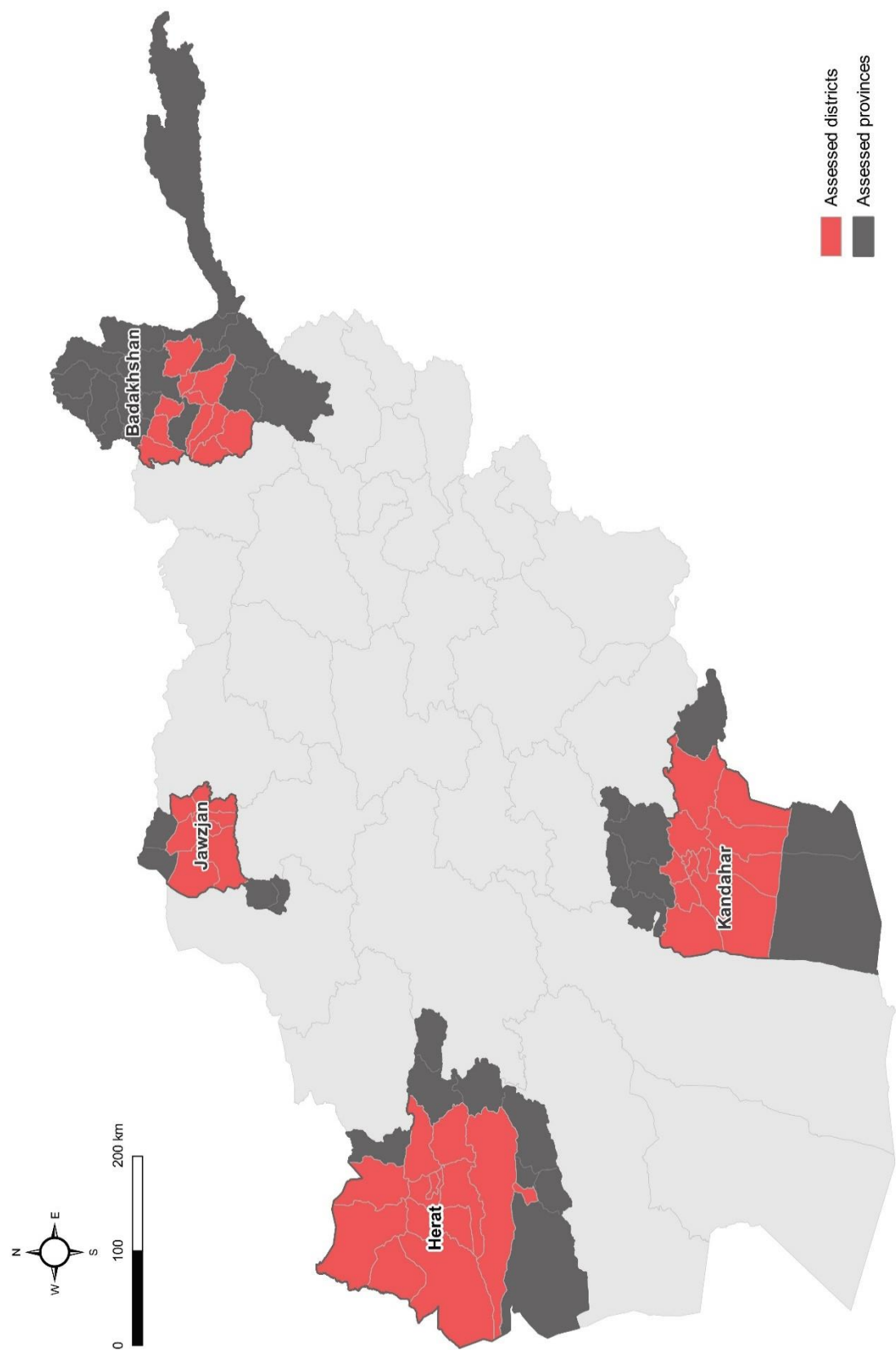
The three population groups of interest across the four provinces in Afghanistan were:

- **Internally Displaced Persons:** defined as “persons or groups of persons who have recently been forced, or obliged to flee/leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.”<sup>14</sup> For the purposes of this assessment, IDPs were considered any household reporting to be living outside of their area of origin.
- **Non-displaced natural-disaster affected (NDDA) populations:** includes those households that have not been displaced from their area of origin as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disaster, but who have been affected by natural disasters. ‘Affected’ for this assessment was defined as households having their shelter severely damaged or destroyed as a result of natural disasters.
- **Host communities:** refers to all communities that host large populations of refugees, returnees or internally displaced persons, typically in camps or integrated into households directly. For this assessment, Host community was identified as households reporting to be living in their areas of origin and that their shelters were unaffected by disaster in 2019.

The four priority provinces selected for this assessment were: Badakhshan, Herat, Jawzjan and Kandahar (see Map 1). The four provinces were selected based on the ES/NFI sectoral needs determined by the 2019 WoAA, as well as input from the Shelter Cluster. The WoAA and broader datasets provided an indication of which provinces: a) had the largest caseloads of people in need of shelter/NFI assistance in accordance with specified target population groups; b) were the most accessible for partners to intervene in and thus provide assistance for those in need; c) had the greatest severity of shelter needs. Only districts where it is safe for enumerators to complete household surveys were assessed for this project.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations (1998), [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#), E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2

Map 1: Assessed provinces and districts



## Primary Data Collection

REACH utilized a mixed methods approach for primary data collection. First, a statistically representative household survey was conducted using a stratified cluster sampling methodology, which provided results with a confidence level of 95% and margin of error of 5% at the province and targeted population group level. Population data was drawn from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) natural disaster tracking database, and United National Population Fund (UNFPA) Flowminder dataset 2019 to determine the populations of each strata within each province, using villages as sampling units. Table 1 below shows the sample sizes achieved for each province and strata.

**Table 1: Households level sample sizes, by province and population group**

Province	Host Community		IDPs		NDDA		Sample Total
	Population	Sample	Population	Sample	Population	Sample	
Herat	195,303	574	30,498	621	2,429	480	1,675
Kandahar	23,121	558	29,776	553	19,180	493	1,604
Jawzjan	39,199	520	12,247	590	n/a	n/a	1,110
Badakhshan	12,402	510	2,408	576	n/a	n/a	1,086
<b>Total</b>	<b>270,025</b>	<b>2,162</b>	<b>74,929</b>	<b>2,340</b>	<b>21,609</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>5,475</b>

The survey tool for the household assessment and FGDs were developed in coordination with the Shelter cluster, and designed based on past shelter assessment and extensive secondary data review on the Afghanistan ES/NFI context. The household tool (see Annex 1) was designed for use on Open Data Kit (Kobo Toolbox), allowing enumerators to collect data on smartphones in the field. The FGD tool (see Annex 2) was an open ended, pen and paper tool of which results were transcribed by REACH's data team in Mazar and analyzed by the Assessment Officer.

Prior to data collection, all field teams were given three days of extensive training, including a half-day pilot of the survey. A training-of-trainers methodology was adopted; Senior Field Officers (SFOs) were trained by the Assessment Officer in Kabul, and these SFOs then returned to their provinces and trained Team Leaders (TLs) and enumerators on the methodology and questionnaire. SFOs were responsible for overseeing data collection across their respective provinces, including the hiring and training of teams, delegation of districts to team leaders, and management of data collection timelines. TLs did not conduct interviews themselves, but were field staff responsible for monitoring a small group of enumerators to ensure data collection was on time and of good quality. Both SFOs and TLs were responsible for communicating data entry corrections to enumerators from Kabul, which included comments on identifying common entry errors, corrections and improvements.

Data was collected from 11 – 29 December, 2019. Teams were divided into groups of 8, each led by a team leader. At least four interviews were completed within each randomly selected village. To ensure households were selected randomly, enumerators were provided with the precise number of sample interviews for each population group in the village. They approached the centre of the village, picked a random direction by dropping a pen and following the direction it pointed, and walked in that direction to the edge of the village while counting the number of houses passed. The number of houses passed was then divided by the number of interviews to be completed, and the value calculated was the number of shelters that enumerators would skip before arriving at one to interview. If the household was suitable (presence of a respondent over 18 years, who is knowledgeable of household affairs and consents to participate), the interview was completed, and the enumerator carried on to the next n-number house. If the household was not suitable for interview, the enumerator walked to the next household to the right and within 100m of the current household, and completed the interview there. The enumerator then returned to the original location to randomly select households along their original path.

To identify the key drivers affecting the ES/NFI needs of populations, and triangulate and explain the findings of the household survey, FGDs were conducted across the four provinces of interest with the same population groups. Twenty FGDs were conducted, one per gender for each population group in each targeted province (see Table 2). Participants for FGDs were purposively sampled across target population groups in order to ensure the composition

of homogeneous groups. Each FGD was conducted in a community building that was central to the participants, and included six to eight participants from one community. FGDs were led by two enumerators, one to facilitate the discussion and a second to transcribe discussions.

**Table 2: Qualitative data collection sample size**

Province	Semi-Structured FGDs
Herat	2 x IDP
	2 x Host Community
	2 x Non-displaced natural-disaster affected populations
Kandahar	2 x IDP
	2 x Host Community
	2 x Non-displaced natural-disaster affected populations
Jawzjan	2 x IDP
	2 x Host Community
Badakhshan	2 x IDP
	2 x Host Community
TOTAL	20

## Data Processing & Analysis

Throughout data collection, data checking and cleaning took place daily to maintain the high data standards of the assessment. A cleaning log of all changes was updated daily as enumerators confirmed data entry errors and the Assessment Officer checked option responses. The REACH data team developed an analysis syntax to be conducted in R software. Analysis was weighted by population group and province, and additional analysis and indicators were developed using the data.

## Limitations

Findings may be biased towards winter needs and preparations, due to the time of year this assessment was conducted. REACH policy precludes interviewing of minors; child-headed households are therefore excluded from this dataset and assessment results. This means there is no data on child-headed households. Social desirability bias, or the tendency of respondents to answer questions in a manner that will be viewed favourably by others, is likely to have influenced the responses to some questions; Respondents might have felt pressure to give answers that are socially acceptable rather than accurately reflecting their situation.

Respondents may have underreported the frequency or quantity of aid received, or overreported household needs, in an effort to influence a response in their area. The humanitarian community in Afghanistan has existed for decades, and has been surveying households for just as long. Households are familiar with the system of aid distribution and how to make needs appear more severe. In an effort to mitigate this bias, REACH explained to every respondent before the survey that they are not an aid provider and responses would not directly result in aid provision.

The preceding population group definitions are broad categories, and do not necessarily capture nuances within each category where needs may vary, including recent, non-recent and cross-border IDPs, non-displaced conflict affected households, and refugee households. As a result, there may be variations within the strata that are not captured here. More information on shelter needs across these divisions can be found in the WoAA report (forthcoming).



## FINDINGS

This section of the report presents the main findings of the assessment through six key themes. Yet, a distinct narrative is woven through all sections, and ultimately stands as the core finding of this assessment: **shelter needs are largely influenced by the quality of the shelter, displacement status, and socio-economic status of the household prior to a major shock**, usually from natural disasters. Households with low socioeconomic status or who are displaced lack the resources to repair shelters following shock events, and the short term solutions they can afford often divert key resources from food and other needs. These negative coping mechanisms eliminate household resilience and potentially trap households in cycles of debt.

This narrative is explored first through household's livelihoods and displacement status, which informs the next theme of shelter types, damage sustained and repairs attempted. Next, it considers the implications of socioeconomic status on living arrangements and tenure agreements of households, and then through the security and dignity households are able to maintain in their current shelter conditions. Lastly, the shelter challenges faced and coping mechanisms used by households are analysed through a socioeconomic lense, as well as the priority needs of households and preferred forms of receiving aid to address those needs.

### Displacement and livelihoods

Socioeconomic status, livelihoods opportunities, displacement, and exposure to shocks all impacted households differently, and appeared to have the largest effects on their current living conditions and shelter needs. Shock-affected households, including IDPs and NDDA households, faced challenges in being able to recover from displacement or disaster-related shelter damage. Displacement status also affected households' abilities to earn income and provide for their families. Host community households – unaffected by shocks and surrounded by a support network – were in more secure socioeconomic situations than their shock affected counterparts. As the following section demonstrates, socioeconomic status and resilience of these population groups was reported to be a major factor in determining a household's shelter needs and vulnerabilities throughout the assessment.

#### Socioeconomic status

**A household's socioeconomic status dictated the severity of impacts experienced after shock events.** Low income households generally did not have the resources to meet their needs. Most participants in FGDs explained how they did not have the resources to repair or replace their homes in the event of a disaster, leaving them extremely vulnerable to further shocks; Many lower-income host community households expressed similar concerns to non-disaster affected households, the only difference being that they had not lost any major assets due to a natural disaster.

**Generally, NDDA households reported lower incomes than host communities.** While household assessment findings indicate that NDDA households reported greater household earnings in the 30 days prior to data collection (6,582 AFN average) than Host community (5,647 AFN) or IDP (4,603 AFN), they also reported the highest rates of loans as a source of earnings (27%), suggesting NDDA households are taking out larger loans more frequently to meet resource gaps. In addition, NDDA households reported having two breadwinners twice as often as Host community (42% NDDA vs 19% Host), explaining the higher cash earnings reported for this population group. FGD respondents noted that, aside from having a damaged shelter, NDDA and low income host communities reported many of the same issues and concerns with regards to livelihoods and resources, suggesting that most NDDA households are low income host community households that lack the resources to recover following a natural disaster. While IDPs also often reported having a low income, they have generally been displaced for longer periods and had more time to recover assets and livelihoods. NDDA are recently displaced and have had less opportunity to recover assets and livelihoods.

**The majority of households reported household earnings as income from work (93%), with the majority of that work being unskilled daily labour (64%).** FGD findings suggest the income generated from this work is poorly paid, and insufficient to meet critical needs related to shelter. While unskilled labour was high in all three strata, it was noticeably higher for IDPs (74%); household data showed IDP households earned the least on average per month. Less economic opportunities are available for those who are strangers or seen as burdens in their new communities. NDDA households, however, are still able to use known skills and relationships with the

host community to find better-paying work. IDPs were more likely to be supported by the host community in Kandahar. Here, IDPs reported lower instances of unskilled labour (50% vs 77% in each province) and more income from cash crop farming and skilled labour. This suggests that IDPs were contributing more needed skills to the local economy, and competing less with Host community households for unskilled labour opportunities. As a result, IDPs may be seen as more valued additions to the community by Host community households in Kandahar than in other provinces.

## Displacement and IDPs

Examining the IDP context specifically, **natural disaster was the most recent factor driving displacement for a majority of households in the assessed areas.** Households reporting displacement due to conflict had usually relocated years before. These IDPs were often also affected by natural disasters in their new locations, but, without the support of the host community (e.g. providing more employment opportunities, short-term loans or aid), they were more severely affected by natural disasters. For example, in FGDs, some NDDA households reported locals granting loans with the knowledge that the loans cannot be repaid, and others reported no issues with tenancy nor eviction and how most landlords were understanding of their situations. In Jawzjan, Badakhshan and Herat, the majority of IDP households reported displacement due to conflict (50%), and being displaced in their current location for more than one year (58%). IDPs in Kandahar, alternatively, reported the majority of displacement was due to natural disaster (64%), and at the same time being displaced for less than one year in their current location. Both examples suggest that most IDPs fled conflict long ago, and recent displacement is due to natural disasters in their areas of displacement.

## Non-Displaced Disaster Affected and Host Communities

**Host and NDDA populations are distinguished by how impacted they are by natural disasters, and socioeconomic status is a key component to determining this impact.** Low income Host community households live in similar conditions to NDDA, but are not categorized as such because a disaster has yet to impact their home. NDDA household plights are eased somewhat by their relationship with the Host community. As NDDA households remained in their area of origin despite shelter damage/destruction, the surrounding community sometimes supports their neighbours, for example with employment. NDDA households were also the least likely to have all adults in their household have a tazkira.<sup>15</sup> This reflects additional vulnerability of NDDA households due to the loss of key documentation and access to services as a result of displacement and natural disasters.

The impact of socioeconomic status on vulnerability echoes throughout all aspects of shelter conditions and needs. While conflict dislocates people from their land and compounds the vulnerability of affected households, the main shock for shelter that ends up costing a household its resilience is natural disasters. The effect of natural disasters is determined largely by a household's socioeconomic status and assets prior to an event.

## Shelter typology and damage

Shelter damage and needs were closely linked to the quality of the shelter construction and materials prior to a shock. The quality of shelters appeared to be largely driven by socioeconomic status, which often determined the quality of building materials and construction methods that could be used in building (and repairing) the shelter. Lower income households were more likely to have shelters that were poorly constructed or built with materials that were less resilient to the elements, making these shelters more vulnerable to damage and collapse. They were also less likely to have the money or resources to make any repairs to damaged shelters.

## Typologies

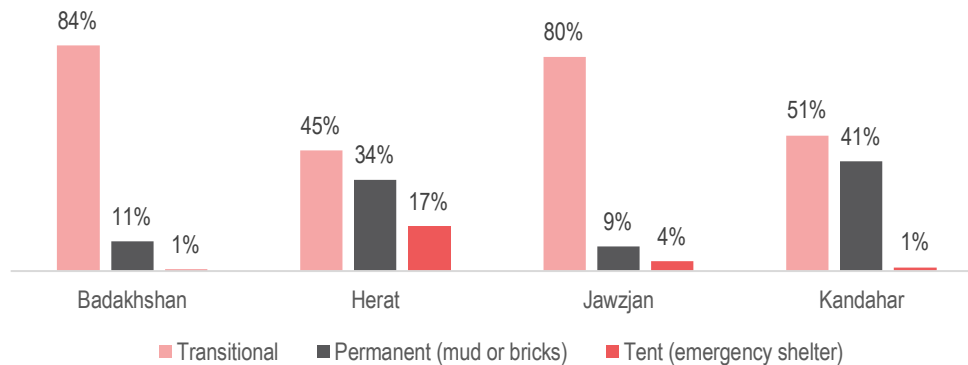
### IDPs

**IDP households' shelter needs appeared to be influenced by the amount of time that they had been displaced.** Protracted IDPs (displaced for over one year) have similar situations to NDDA households – they are living in poorly constructed yet permanent shelters. Recent IDPs (displaced for less than one year) reported more

<sup>15</sup> A Tazkira is the primary Afghan personal identification document and is "necessary to receive a variety of government services (e.g. education), employment in the government and large parts of the private sector. See [https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/af\\_civil-documentation-study\\_081116.pdf](https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/af_civil-documentation-study_081116.pdf) for more information.

often living in tents, which were reported to offer little protection from harsh weather conditions and deteriorate quickly. In harsh weather conditions, these tents can tear or blow away. In Herat specifically, 17% of IDP households were reported to be living in tents, yet three quarters (77%) of IDP households reported arriving to their current location over 1 year ago. For these reasons, these populations should be prioritized for shelter aid.

Figure 1: Proportion of IDP households by reported shelter type.<sup>16</sup>



Transitional shelters are common among both recent and protracted IDPs (see Figure 1). While beneficial as new construction for recently displaced households, over half of IDP households (58%) reported living in their current location for over a year, and many of these transitional shelters, which are not intended for permanent use, have begun to deteriorate. Often, IDPs living in permanent shelters have been displaced long-term. Still, FGDs noted that the shelters of low income IDP or NDDA households, regardless of shelter typology, are poorly constructed, and lack proper insulation and sufficient space. Households reported not having enough materials to build enough rooms in the first place. An exception was Kandahar, where both IDPs and Host communities noted having far more space for the people in their homes (3.9 rooms on average for Kandahar vs 2.8 rooms for all other assessed provinces).

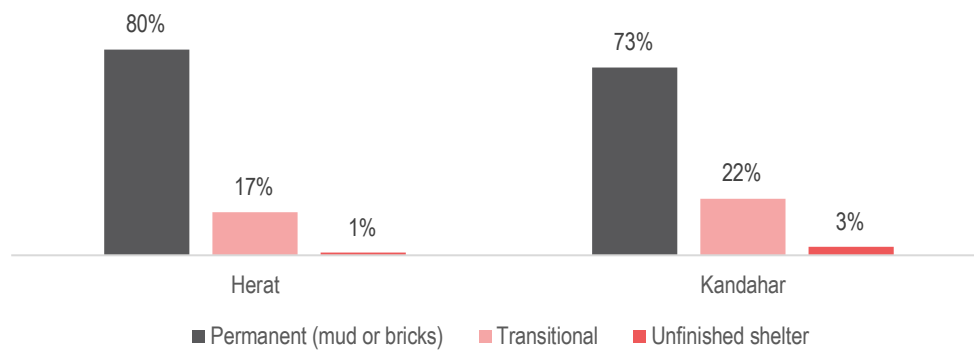
About 16% of IDPs reported living in unsafe shelters.<sup>17</sup> The majority of these IDPs were in Herat, where one in five IDPs (21%) live in unsafe shelter, but was also common for Jawzjan and Kandahar (1 in 10 IDPs). Focus groups suggest that these populations would like to live in better shelters but lack the means to repair or replace them.

### NDDA and Host

Permanent shelters were most common among NDDA and Host community households (see Figure 2), but, similar to IDPs, **the quality of these permanent shelters varied depending on the household's socioeconomic status before the shock**. In FGDs, lower income households reported their shelters were generally built with poorer quality shelter materials and unsound construction. Many NDDA households were continuing to live in their shelters which were damaged by natural disasters.

<sup>16</sup> Data collected by enumerator observation

<sup>17</sup> Tents, makeshift shelters, collective centres, open spaces, unfinished shelters, or damaged houses were typologies considered 'unsafe' for this assessment.

Figure 2: Proportion of NDDA households by reported shelter type.<sup>18</sup>

Many FGD participants reported a lack of rooms and space within their shelters, where up to 10 people were reported to be sharing a room. For Host and NDDA households, this was often due to parts of the shelters collapsing due to natural disaster, and families having to move into fewer remaining covered spaces.

**Not having enough space for all household members can have implications on privacy and gender issues,** as over two thirds (69%) of households reported having no separate rooms for men and women. It can also have implications for the health of the household. In Kandahar over one third (38%) of households reported keeping livestock in the same indoor space as people, possibly exposing them to disease and an unclean environment. This practice overall was most common among NDDA households (38%), where fewer rooms were available due to collapse, and a need to protect remaining assets may have incentivised households to protect livestock inside during the winter.

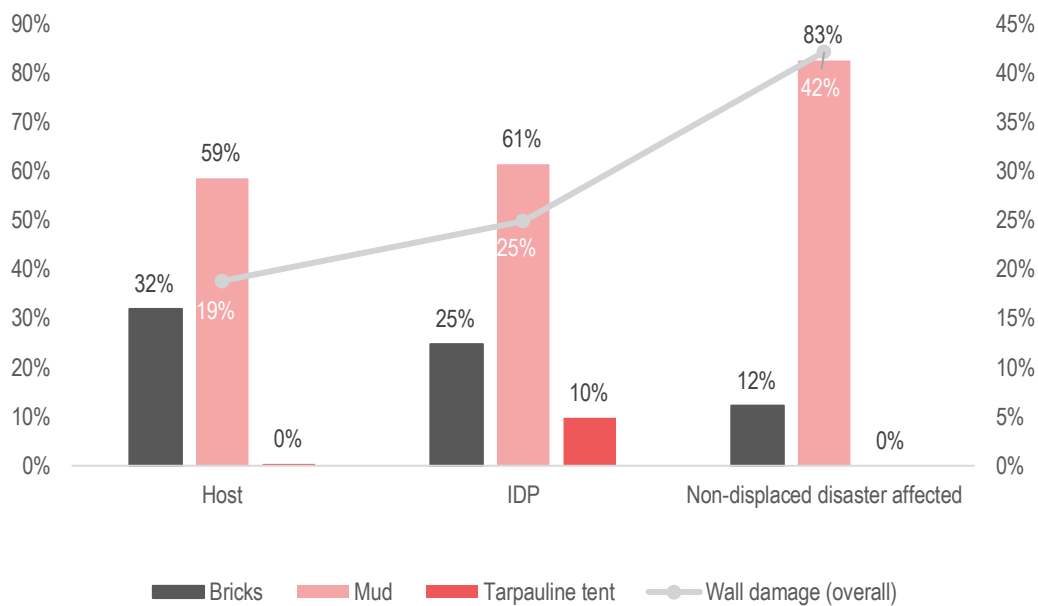
### Shelter Material and Damage

Shelter damage was commonly reported by households across all assessed provinces and strata, with reporting trends tending to follow patterns based on population strata and shelter type. Figure 3 demonstrates how shelter types, damage, and socioeconomic status were linked. Host community households use bricks for their shelter more than twice as often as NDDA households (32% Host vs 12% NDDA households), indicating higher quality materials and construction used for Host community shelters. NDDA households rely heavily on mud for their shelters – a free and readily available, yet weak, material. With the poorer quality materials, NDDA households were twice as likely to have a damaged shelter<sup>19</sup> as their Host community counterparts.

<sup>18</sup> Data collected by enumerator observation

<sup>19</sup> Damaged shelter was calculated through enumerator observation, and is a combined figure of households reported as having a 'badly damaged' or 'fully destroyed' shelter.

**Figure 3: Proportion of households by top three reported main wall materials, and reported wall damage, by population group**



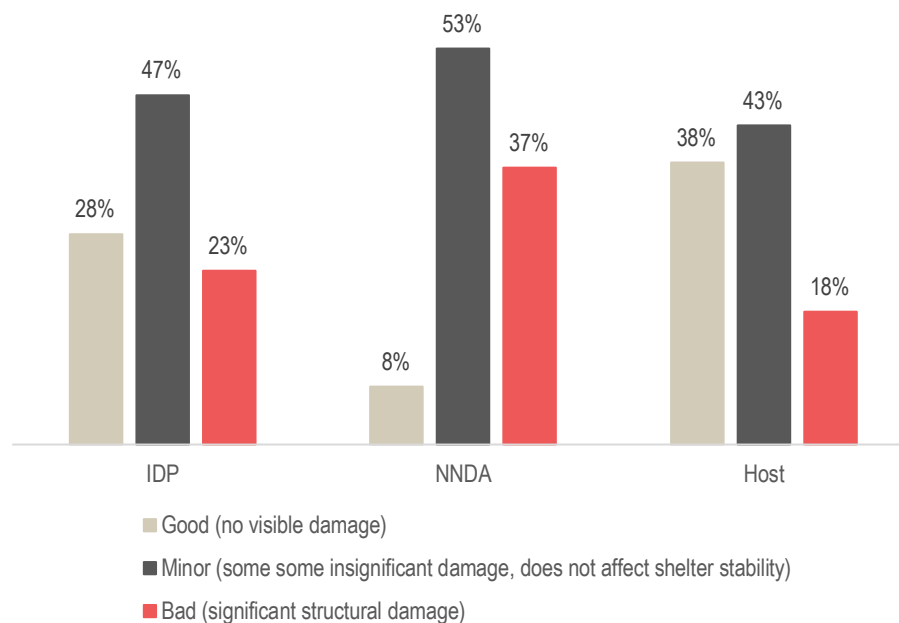
**Most shelters are made of mud, both for walls (60%) and roofs (49% mud and grass combined).** There are similar rates of households reporting bricks as wall materials (29%) and households with walls in good condition (36%), suggesting that households in brick shelters sustain little to no damage during shock events. Furthermore, there are similar rates of households reporting mud and grass as the main roof material, and rates of minor roof damage (45%), which again indicates that materials for shelter construction can predicate damage status. Households in Herat reported a larger number of IDPs (20%) living under Corrugated Galvanized Iron roofing, but these are mostly recent IDPs (arriving within the 12 months prior to data collection). FGDs from Herat noted that IDPs who settled in previous years did not get the same shelter assistance/package as earlier arrivals and their shelters had started to deteriorate.

**The main reported cause of shelter damage was natural disasters (78%).** FGDs noted that all population groups had experienced rain, flooding, or earthquakes in the last year, and their ability to cope with these events was dependent on the quality of shelter prior to damage. The general trend from FGDs was that Host community households who had been affected by disasters were likely part of a lower economic class who could not afford more resistant shelters. Households in Jawzjan were more likely to report poor shelter materials as a cause of damage than households in other provinces (54% in Jawzjan vs 18% overall), largely linked to the salinity of the soil and how this can quickly erode natural materials like mud and clay. FGDs show that these two causes are married – as participants reported that shelters built of poor materials were more likely to collapse or be damaged by natural disasters.

**Nearly all NDDA households experienced shelter damage in the last year; All but 8% of shelters were reported by enumerators to have sustained at least minor damage** (see Figure 4). As noted above, NDDA households were most likely to use mud as a shelter wall material, which is highly susceptible to damage compared to other materials. FGD respondents noted that unless the shelter was completely destroyed, households would continue to live in what was still standing, mainly due to a lack of resources to repair or build a new shelter.



Figure 4: Proportion of households by reported current condition of shelter as observed by enumerators



## Repairs

**Whether households have attempted to repair their damaged shelters or not, and the quality of repairs, generally depended on household income and the materials used in initial construction.** Of households with shelters reported to be in poor condition through enumerator observation,<sup>20</sup> a vast majority (79%) reported that they had not been able to make the repairs that they wanted to make to their shelter. NDDA households reported this inability less frequently (58% vs 79% overall), and FGD participants described inadequate shelter repairs, which may indicate their overall resignation over the ability to repair their shelters given the damage. Occasionally, households relied on landlords for repairs, yet FGD participants highlighted that the cost of repair was often offset onto the renters by increasing rent.

Household are generally unable to afford the materials to repair their homes; The main reason for not being able to repair a shelter was unaffordability of materials (64%). FGDs in all four provinces noted that all required shelter materials were available in the market, either locally or in the city, but they simply could not afford repairs with their current income sources. This issue was reported most frequently by NDDA households in Herat (94%), where the lack of livelihoods and support from Host community was distinctly noted in FGDs by both NDDA and low-income Host community households. Up to one third of IDP households in Herat (31%) noted that they did not have authorization to make repairs, likely due to the special tenancy status that many IDPs have living on specially designated, open land on which they occupy UN-provided shelters. IDPs in Kandahar specifically reported in FGDs that, while host community had been generous with providing rental shelters, any desired or required repairs fell to the IDP households, as the landlords did not have the funds to make these repairs themselves.

## Vulnerable Households and Shelters

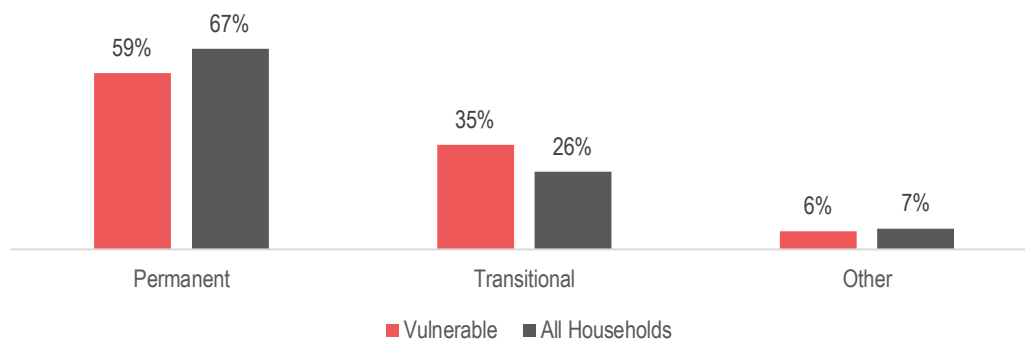
Vulnerable households tended to report similar or more severe needs compared to the population as a whole.<sup>21</sup> This was the case for households living in the same provinces, or belonging to the same displacement groups. Like many other low-income households, vulnerable households suffered from a lack of resources to meet their shelter and winterization needs, often due to not having a breadwinner in the family to provide income. This suggests that even **households who do not meet vulnerability criteria that many humanitarian organisations use may be equally vulnerable, and have similar needs.**

<sup>20</sup> Enumerators observed the overall condition of a shelter, and ranked it as 'good', 'minor damage' (superficial, not structural), 'badly damaged' (structural), and 'destroyed'. Households that enumerators reported to be in 'minor' 'bad' or 'destroyed' condition were then asked about their ability to make repairs.

<sup>21</sup> A household was considered vulnerable if it had at least one of the following characteristics: containing at least one member over the age of 65, contains at least one member with a disability or chronic illness, has a female or child household head, or no adults were reported to own a tazkira.

Vulnerable households did report slightly worse access to adequate shelter types. Vulnerable households were almost 10% less likely to report living in a permanent shelter but over 10% more likely to report living in a transitional shelter, particularly in Herat, as compared to the overall population. This may suggest that vulnerable households are more likely to have qualified for and received aid from humanitarian organisations.

Figure 5: Proportion of vulnerable and overall households by reported shelter type



## Living arrangements

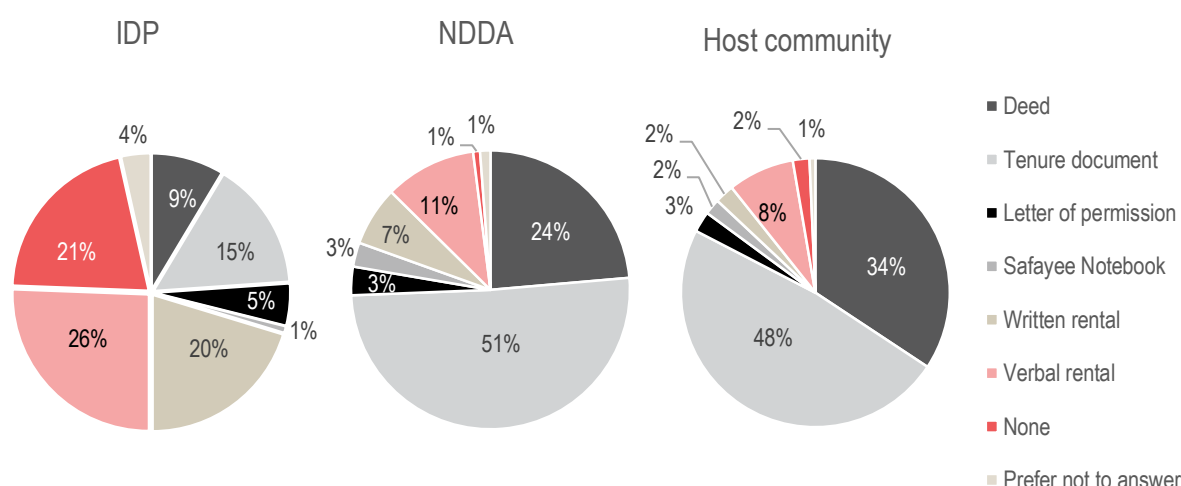
Both household interviews and FGDs suggested that household's socioeconomic and displacement status had the largest impact on the living arrangements they can afford. Lower income households and IDPs are pushed into unsecure or illegal agreements which put them at risk of exploitation or eviction, while Host community households with means to do so are hosting those in need.

### Accommodation agreements and tenure

**Accommodation arrangements were most complex for IDP households due to their displacement.** They were more likely to rent due to lack of land ownership, adding costs to already limited finances. One third (32%) of IDP households reported living in their shelter for free, either with or without the owner's consent, indicating the precarious position in which some IDP households occupy when unable to afford rent. The types of rental agreements reported by IDP households varied, including written (20%), verbal (26%), or none at all (21%). The majority (33%) of those with no tenure agreement were IDPs in Herat that had been settled on vacant land. In Kandahar, most IDP households had written arrangements (54%), which, FGD participants explained, were largely used to protect IDPs and provide stability; unwritten agreements reportedly left IDPs vulnerable to exploitation by landlords who could raise rents or evict them without warning. Most rental agreements were valid for over a year, though as noted, verbal agreements were subject to change at any time.

IDPs were the only group where a plurality reported an insecure agreement; Nearly half of IDP households (46%) reported having an insecure tenure agreement,<sup>22</sup> while one in ten NDDA (11%) or Host community (10%) reported the same (see Figure 5). In Herat specifically, one third of IDPs reported occupying their shelter without permission. FGDs in Herat suggest these families were occupying vacant land far from existing communities, in order to avoid detection, eviction or paying rent.

<sup>22</sup> A household is considered to have an insecure tenure agreement if they selected 'verbal rental agreement' or 'none' to the question about tenure agreements

Figure 6: Proportion of households reporting tenure agreements, by population group:<sup>23</sup>

**NDDA households had different vulnerabilities than IDPs in regards to tenure.** The majority of NDDA households reported owning their homes (87%), yet one third (29%) did not have documentation to prove ownership. In FGDs it was explained that some NDDA households had also lost their documents either during the initial disaster or after as a result of the damage to their shelters. High rates of home ownership also indicate that many NDDA households are tethered to their damaged homes after shocks, corroborated by FGDs which noted that some households were forced to stay on their land in dire conditions in the winter in order to keep it from being claimed by someone else.

## Hosting and Renting

**The majority of Host community households reported hosting displaced persons in their shelter;** Over 70% of non-displaced households (NDDA and Host community) reported hosting displaced persons within their shelters, and these tended to be households with permanent shelters (88%). Nearly three quarters (71%) of these arrangements are displaced families known to the host household, either because they are family or friends, or they were connected to host families through family or friends. Host communities in Herat showed particular openness to helping displaced households, as over half of hosting households reported doing so over one year. Some NDDA households (16%) reported hosting displaced persons as well (mostly in Kandahar). NDDA households are already vulnerable and hosting IDPs adds additional pressure on already vulnerable NDDA households.

**One in five households (19%) are renting their shelters, the majority of which are IDPs (41%).** In Badakhshan, Jawzjan, and Kandahar, well over half of IDP households are renting shelters (72%, 69% and 58% respectively), unlike Herat, where land was designated for some IDPs and rent is less of a concern. For households paying rent, the average rent paid in the 30 days prior to data collection was 1624 AFN. There were not enough households reporting paying to live in their shelter, either as rent or a fee for hosting, to be able to consider the data representative of any population group, so the following data is indicative data only. A small proportion of IDPs (7%) reported being hosted by friends or family as an accommodation arrangement (120 households) and of these, only 5% (6 households) reported needing to pay for their accommodation.

## Security and dignity

All three population groups face threats to their security and dignity in relation to their shelter, though IDP households notably faced additional challenges, including losing most of their assets during displacement, lacking local support when unfamiliar to the host community, and dependency on shelter aid distributed years prior and long past its intended use. These challenges warrant a specific focus on their needs and targeted shelter aid.

<sup>23</sup> A Safayee notebook is a community-based record of ownership and property tax document. See <http://www.acbar.org/upload/1494238797113.pdf> for more information.

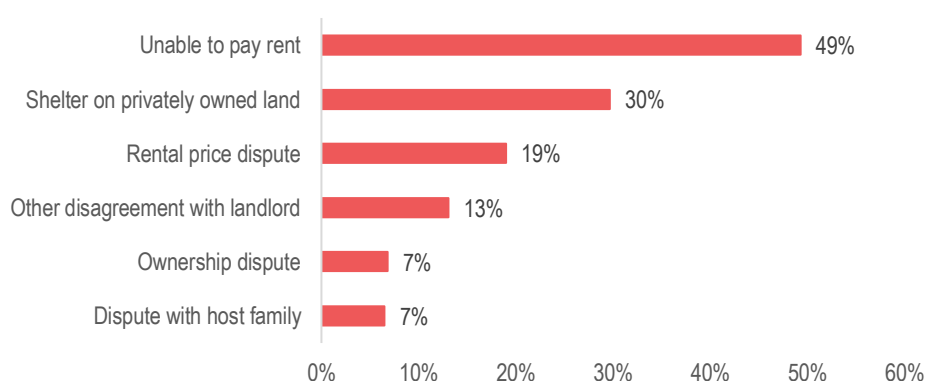
## Rent and eviction

Rent is at the forefront of security and dignity in regards to shelter; **Over half of IDP households, and 60% of households overall, reported being unable to afford rent payments in the three months prior to data collection.** As stated, IDP households reported the lowest income of the three population groups for the 30 days prior to data collection, related to a lack of employment and support from host communities. In addition, while each population group was reported to have some shelter damage (minor or more), IDP (24%) and NDDA (37%) households were more frequently reported to have severely damaged shelters.

For IDP households in particular, according to FGD participants, the compounded costs of repairing a shelter while paying rent have become an unsustainable venture. In winter months, the cost of winterization exacerbates these expenses further. Households unable to afford rent must make difficult decisions to either cut other household expenses or take on debt to keep a roof over their families' heads. FGDs with IDP households highlighted how the added cost of repairing a shelter while also paying rent were not possible to sustain.

In FGDs, **IDPs often reported rent to be their largest financial expense, alongside the lack of resources to repair their shelters.** Generally, repairs for shelter damage, though the responsibility of the landlord, were transferred on to tenants in the form of elevated rent prices. Through FGDs it is understood that in Herat, many IDPs discussed settling for free on spare land, and in Kandahar, some Host community households have allowed IDPs to stay without rent. While a solution for housing at the moment, these verbal agreements/squatting keep IDP households in situations with high risks of eviction.

**Figure 7: Of the IDP households that reported a fear of eviction in the three months after data collection, proportion of households reporting reasons for fearing eviction:<sup>24</sup>**



Given the socioeconomic situations for IDP households outlined above, **over one third (40% overall) of IDPs reported fearing eviction in the three months following data collection.** This was particularly high in Badakhshan (62%), where FGDs noted the lack of support and predatory renting practices were prevalent. These fears were mainly due to an inability to pay rent (49%) or dispute over the price of rent (21%), likely due to added repair costs (see Figure 6). Households occupying privately owned land can be linked to FGD reports of occupying shelters without permission. FGD participants also noted instances of households who could not pay rent and were evicted. Kandahar and Herat were exceptions. In Kandahar, landlords were less likely to act on threats and push defaulting renters out and FGD participants noted a pattern of host communities trying to help vulnerable families to keep their accommodations. In Herat, protracted displacement has created a system where the UN has intervened to support re-settlement of IDPs, helping find situations where they do not have to pay rent.

## Protection

**Households with poorer quality shelter types or materials were more likely to feel unsafe in their shelters.** Over half of IDP households (54%) and one in four households overall (27%) reported feeling unsafe in their shelter. **Natural disasters (61%) were the main reason for feeling unsafe,** and FGD participants elaborated that earthquakes and flooding are the key concerns for shelter destruction. Weak shelter and poor shelter materials

<sup>24</sup> Respondents could select multiple options

also contributed to feeling unsafe (47%), linked to concerns about natural disasters – a shelter made of poor quality materials is more likely to collapse or sustain damage during a natural disaster. Crime is a safety concern in Herat (18%), largely among vulnerable NDDA and IDP households. In FGDs, NDDA participants spoke about needing to stay on their land with destroyed shelters to ensure others did not claim the land in their absence, while IDP respondents discussed feelings of insecurity living in tents and emergency shelters that lacked doors and windows. Indeed, half (48%) of IDP households in Herat reported having no lock on their shelter. Armed groups and violence did concern a minority of households (16%), but is not a major driver of shelter need beyond initial displacement.

## Challenges and coping mechanisms

Households overwhelmingly reported that their greatest challenges in accessing shelter materials and NFI were related to a lack of money, rather than physical access. When aid is available, households can reach distributions and recognize what is provided. Markets are stocked and open, and families can reach them. Solutions to shelter issues need to address the core access issue – poor socioeconomic status.

### Markets

**Households cannot afford to purchase items in local markets, which are reported to be open, fully stocked and likely feature fair prices for shelter materials and NFIs.** In general, rural areas have small markets that sell food and some NFIs at slightly elevated prices. However, FGDs noted that most households typically needed to go to cities or large towns for durable shelter materials, which cost money in transport, and also were usually too expensive to purchase. Some FGD participants reported that in some cases, prices were driven up due to seasonal demand (e.g. fuel), but the persisting challenge with accessing ES/NFI materials at markets is simply that the many households do not have the income to afford what is likely a reasonable market price. This means that cash programming is both welcome and desired, and that **sustainable income is necessary for long-term solutions to shelter problems.**

### Winterization

**A minority of households overall reported taking steps to prepare for winter (16%),** and most are stockpiling firewood (or any fuel, as FGDs specified plastics and dung as well) and borrowing from friends and relatives, mainly money or clothing. As with shelter repair, one in four households (28%) who are preparing for winter are reducing the number or size of meals to save money for winterization purchases. In Kandahar, one in four households reported preparing for the season, however this may be more common due to ease of preparation for milder winter temperatures common in the South of the country.

While a minority of households are taking action to prepare for winter, concerns about survival and desire to prepare are common across all population groups. It is clear what households want to be doing to prepare for winter, but are unable because they lack the money. This is again reflected in specific needs and preferences for winterization, which are discussed in the next section.

### Aid and distributions

**Few households reported receiving humanitarian aid in the three months prior to data collection, and those that did receive aid reported that it was insufficient for their needs.** In FGDs, respondents who had received aid described it as helpful and expressed appreciation for what they had received, but added the aid was too short-lived to make a serious impact on the root issue, which was a lack of sustainable livelihoods. In FGDs, IDP households were the core group to report receiving aid, but methods of distribution were unclear and inconsistent. IDPs in Herat complained that they received a lot of initial shelter support from the UN, but then would receive nothing after that for years, leaving them without jobs or livelihoods to sustain themselves. NDDA were occasionally able to receive aid when Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) confused them for IDP households.

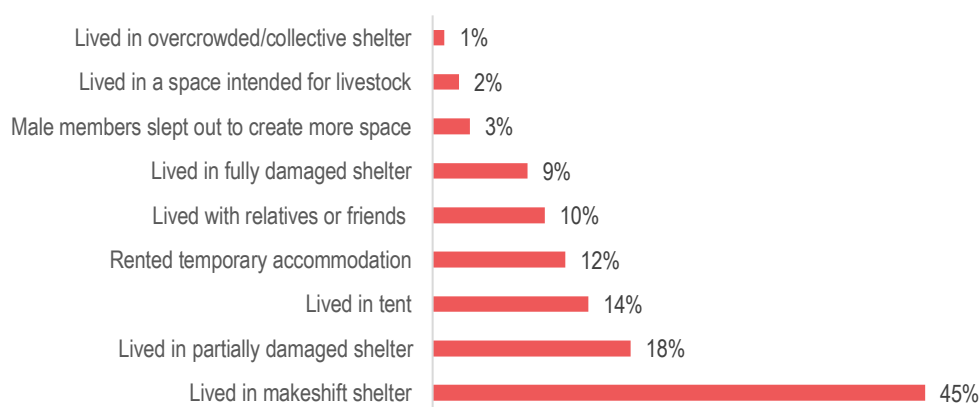
**Aid diversion was a common complaint from households across population groups.** FGD participants reported some fraudulent individuals in their community whom they believed were siphoning aid to enrich themselves or specific beneficiaries. Many FGD participants desired more direct NGO engagement with communities to ensure aid was distributed to those in greatest need. An exception to this was Badakhshan where FGD participants believed that community representatives were mostly working in the public interest.



## Coping mechanisms

Shelter materials and NFIs are available in markets and aid distributions when offered; **The greatest challenge to ES/NFI access is lack of cash.** Beyond basic items, unaffordable rent and fears of eviction have placed IDPs in difficult situations – take on loans to afford expenses, or cut other critical household expenses. Participants in FGDs reported **food and healthcare are the first expenses to be thinned to afford shelter costs.** FGD participants also noted that education was occasionally sacrificed, as some households reported having to pull children out of school, and force the entire family into work in order to afford monthly expenses. Usually, expenses culled for the sake of shelter were later reported as priority needs for the household (see Priority Needs and Preferred Aid). In cases of shelter in the 3 months prior to data collection, 9% of households reported not being able to find shelter for their families. Of these households, most coped by living in less secure shelter options, in particular shelters of their own making (45%), and few relied on others for support (10%) (See Figure 8). While these issues are also present for NDDA and Host community households, the compounding issues faced by IDPs makes this population group's situation the most dire.

**Figure 8: Of the IDP households that reported a fear of eviction in the three months after data collection, proportion of households reporting reasons for fearing eviction:<sup>25</sup>**



Ultimately, there are few issues with accessing and receiving aid when it is distributed, yet little aid is available especially during the winter, and what is provided is insufficient and has been distributed unequally in the past. To cope, households are cutting other expenses, including food, healthcare and education. Little of what has been provided has remedied the root issue in shelter access – lack of livelihood, skill development and employment opportunities.

## Priority needs and preferred aid

With less income to purchase the items and materials households need, low income households reported needing more support to improve their shelters, before refocusing on other needs.

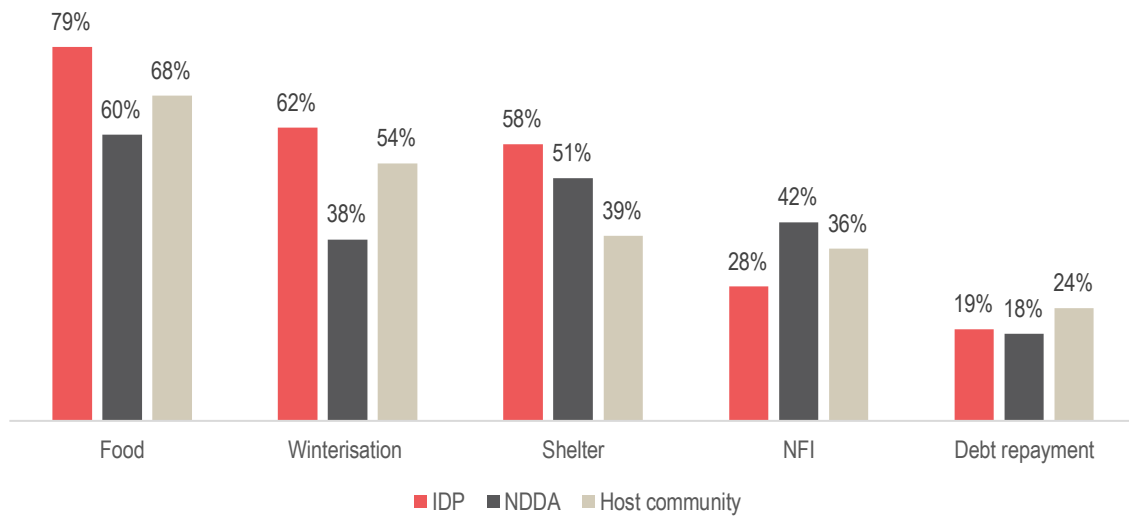
### Priority needs

**The priority needs of households were consistent across population groups: food, shelter repair, and winterization** (see Figure 7). Food was the first choice of every population group, which is unsurprising knowing the lack of resources households have to cope with shocks, leading households to sacrifice food expenses first when rent was due or shelter repair needed. In addition, the 2020 HNO reports that the same disasters that damaged shelters also damaged large areas of farm land.<sup>26</sup> The requests for food aid may also be a reflection of the loss of crops and other food sources. Shelter, or more specifically shelter repair (as identified in ES/NFI priority need indicators), was commonly reported as a priority ES/NFI need – one third of households reported it as a first priority need. This is both a long- and short-term need; transitional shelters are needed as a durable, safe solution to immediate needs, but most households want quality shelter materials and (re)construction of a permanent structure as sustainable protection from shocks.

<sup>25</sup> Respondents could select multiple options

<sup>26</sup> OCHA (2019) Afghanistan: Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2020. Pg 22

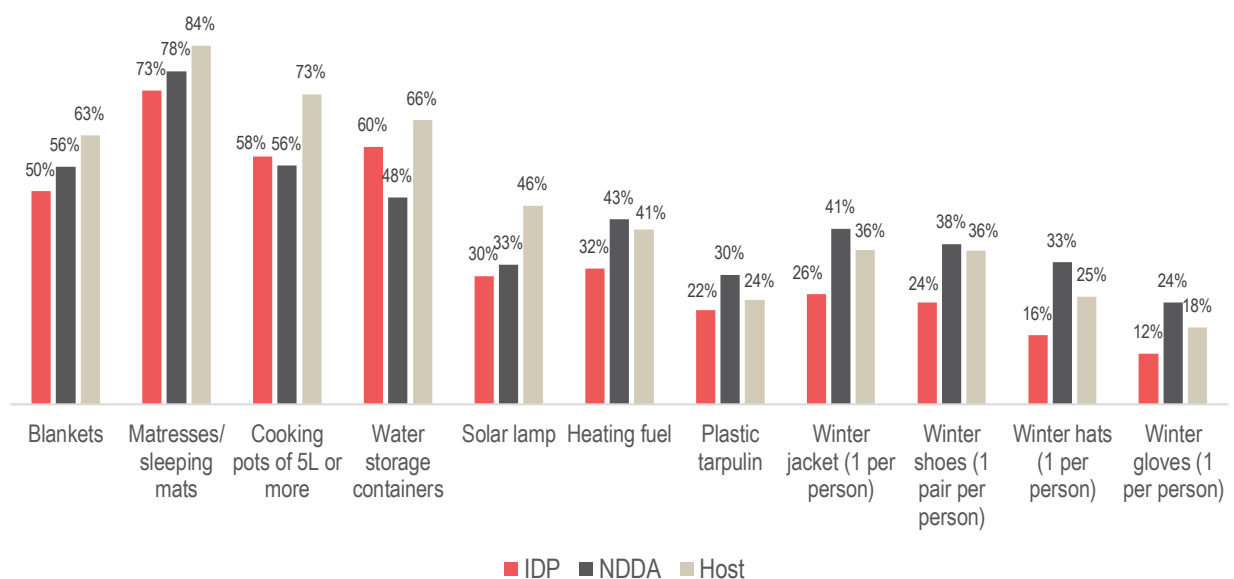
Figure 9: Proportion of households reporting their top priority needs, by sector and population group. Respondents could select up to three options, top five answers shown:



**Winterization and NFIs are immediate needs.** These categories do overlap, as households specified fuel, blankets and warm clothing specifically as priority ES/NFI needs. FGD participants reported low income households are using whatever materials are available to burn, including plastic and other waste, animal dung, or firewood. In some cases, foraging for firewood in surrounding areas is risky due to armed opposition group presence. Preference for safer and more efficient heating materials was expressed. Blankets were another key winter NFI requested, both for personal warmth and for insulating doorways and windows.

The need for winterization materials is echoed in the NFIs that households reported owning already (see Figure 10). Here, households reported owning winter jackets, shoes, hats and gloves the least, with IDPs specifically lacking these items. For winterization materials specifically, households in Kandadhar specifically reported higher rates of ownerships of all winterization items, while households in Badakhshan reported significantly less ownership.

Figure 10: Proportion of households reporting owning key NFIs, by NFI and population group:



## Preferred aid modalities

**Cash is the preferred form of aid for a majority of households.** This is logical, as markets are accessible, stocked and functioning, as reported in past sections, but the financial means to afford the items in markets are not available. Looking into priority spending, if given cash as aid, households reported that they would spend first on food (69%), fuel (47%) and shelter repair (41%). These were largely consistent findings across population groups. Specifically for ES/NFI needs, households prefer to purchase fuel (72%), blankets (65%) and winter jackets (39%) themselves if they were given cash as aid. IDP FGD respondents in Kandahar preferred shelter materials to go to their shelters in their areas of origin, likely in an effort to remove themselves from vulnerable displacement situations. For more immediate needs, however, they requested aid in their current location, including fuel, warm clothes, and winterization items.

**A significant minority – roughly one in three households – reported a preference for in-kind aid distributions.** This may be related to FGD participants reporting fraudulent individuals involved in the aid distribution process. IDP participants in Badakhshan, Jawzjan and Kandahar, NDDA respondents in Herat, and Host community respondents in Jawzjan reported instances of aid not being distributed equally nor fairly within their communities. This appears to be a road block to distributing aid as intended, and may be why households are requesting forms of aid that are more difficult to exploit.

## CONCLUSION

**The shelter situation in Afghanistan is largely dictated by socio-economic and displacement status.** IDP households are generally in the most vulnerable situations – mainly displaced by natural disasters living in temporary shelters that have been used far longer than intended, and in need of repair. As interlopers in the host community, they face more challenges in finding work, and often rely on unskilled daily labour, if any, for employment. Without a steady and sufficient income, IDPs are least resilient to further shocks. NDDA households were generally low-income host community households who lacked the income to afford a shelter with quality materials and solid construction. When shock events occurred, NDDA households lacked the adequate materials and construction to absorb the impact. Yet, by staying in place and not relocating, they maintained social support networks with neighbours, which provided support in recovery, such as better employment opportunities and additional expenses like rent. For both population groups, the main shelter materials were mud or other temporary or affordable – and thus less resilient – materials. These shelters were more likely to be damaged or destroyed by natural disasters, and the same socioeconomic limitations that prevented adequate shelters from being built prevented these households from making shelter repairs.

Living arrangements are most insecure for IDPs, who often occupy shelters with no written tenure agreement or no permission whatsoever. Those paying rent fear eviction because rents can easily become unaffordable. When households were unable to afford rent, that were forced to make difficult decisions to either cut other household expenses or take on debt which they were unlikely to be able to repay. Meanwhile, NDDA households generally owned their shelters but were often tethered to what were now damaged shelters, because they could not afford repairs or there were concerns of others occupying their land or property if they leave the area. Households with poorer quality shelter types or materials were more likely to feel unsafe in their shelters. Natural disasters, the cause of most shelter damage, were the main reason for feeling unsafe.

**Households that could not afford rent or shelter repairs were likely to cut other household expenses, specifically food,** to make ends meet. Unsurprisingly, then, food was also the top priority need for the majority of households, to make up for the financial sacrifice for shelter. Winterization NFIs were an immediate need to cope with the harsh winters, regardless of population group. Shelter repair was another priority need, which requires both immediate and long-term planning and strategies.

**The greatest challenge to ES/NFI access was lack of cash.** Shelter materials and NFI are available in markets and aid distributions when offered. Unaffordable rent and fears of eviction have placed IDPs in difficult situations – fall into a debt trap to pay for rent and repairs, or cut other critical household expenses to afford rent. As a result, cash was the preferred form of aid for a majority of households, so ES/NFI needs could be managed within households priorities and purchased independently.

**All of these issues stem from a lack of insufficient resources for most households due to poor and unstable livelihoods that most households had before a major shock;** Most of the population sustain themselves through unskilled labour, which often pay low-wages and lack job security. Given the market dependency of all but the most remote communities in Afghanistan, poor and unstable employment severely limits a household's abilities to provide for themselves in the event of a sudden expense or loss of income. **Improved livelihood opportunities and skills would increase household resilience** by providing opportunities for greater market participation and the ability for households to pursue their own long-term shelter solutions.

There are two responses needed to address current shelter issues, one to address emergency damage and survival needs, and another to address prolonged shelter issues. Short-term support in the form of durable and safe transitional shelters will enable lower-income households to better cope after shock events, and focus attention and spending on recovery. The winter season amplifies immediate shelter issues, making shelter aid critical in the autumn as preparations begin. Paired with this, long-term shelter solutions are needed, such as high quality shelter materials and construction of permanent structures, to provide sustainable protection from future shocks. Alleviating chronic shelter problems, such as poor materials, construction, or even shelters with insecure tenure, can improve both shelter and livelihood outcomes for low income and displaced households.

Each population has its own needs and challenges requiring tailored shelter programming. While **IDP** households are the main population group to receive aid, this aid needs to be in quantities that sustain the household for longer periods, and followed up on regularly to ensure basic needs continue to be met. In the short-term, aid needs to focus on improving current shelter conditions, largely **shifting from temporary to more durable transitional shelters or resilient materials** (e.g. brick, CGI). Winterization distributions of cash or NFI will also preserve households finances for other urgent households need. Long-term, IDPs need support in transitioning from intermediate to permanent shelters, either in their current communities or in their area of origin. In addition, support to gain secure tenure, either through provision of cash or other rent support, will foster sustainability and enable these populations to rebuild.

While not explicitly an ES/NFI issue, the **improvement of livelihood opportunities for low income and vulnerable families is critical for providing longer term solutions** for IDP, NDDA and Host community households. Both vocational training of new skills needed by the community and improved education for children and adults would provide opportunities for households to learn new trades and find employment in higher-paying and more secure jobs that would allow them to purchase better shelter materials and make repairs to their homes following a major shock.

**NDDA** households are making due with damaged or poor quality shelters, similar to IDPs, but have maintained social networks and support from the surrounding Host community. This population group generally owned their shelters and are keen to rebuild with quality and durable materials, but lack the resources to do so. Immediate support for winter preparation was also critical. Programming that supports NDDA households to (re)construct shelters with high quality, durable materials will build resilience to future shocks and facilitate more sustainable shelter solutions for this group.

In the short-term, **Host community** households requested winterization support, including fuel and blankets. Additional support should be targeted towards those households hosting displaced persons, as these arrangements tend to last one year or longer, creating a significant strain on host families. Host communities are not without shelter needs, and reported similar challenges and needs to those of IDP and NDDA, but they are equipped with social networks, livelihoods and better pre-shock shelter conditions than other population groups. However, many lower income host community households reported very similar conditions to NDDA households, and lack the same resilience to absorb the impact of a major shock. Thus, shelter programming for this population should focus on more vulnerable households, and aim to build a foundation, including secure shelter tenure, improve shelter materials, and overall build livelihoods, in an effort to prevent additional host community households from slipping into NDDA conditions from the next shock event.

The above conclusions imply several strategies for shelter programming in Afghanistan. First, **cash-based programming is a preferred and appreciated form of support**, more so than in-kind distributions. It allows households to prioritize their own needs and shop for goods where and how they like. Continuing and expanding these programs would be welcomed and appreciated. Also, as IDPs tend to remain in temporary and emergency shelters for longer than intended, **adjusting programming to providing transitional shelters, of durable and high quality materials**, will support households in having safer shelter for the short-term. In addition, expanding emergency shelter programming to include follow up distributions, or cash or in-kind materials, would prevent situations of households stretching initial aid well past its lifespan. These provisions will also support in preparation for winter – a key ES/NFI need. **There is a desire across the population groups to go beyond shelter repairs to construct new shelters with high quality and durable materials.** Providing shelter with strong materials and proper construction techniques from the foundation up will keep households safer in the next natural disaster, prevent future repair costs, and ultimately improve household resilience in the shocks to come. Households are eager for long-term solutions so shelter maintenance is no longer a burden. Lastly, **winterization distributions which occur well before the temperature drops** is a consistent and urgent need. Households seem to rely on the support of the United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to prepare for the harsh season, in particular with heating of shelters – fuel and blankets.

Shelter programming has addressed immediate needs for vulnerable populations, but this assessment shows opportunity and pathways for expanding these programs to provide sustainable shelter support to larger populations. The overlap of socioeconomic needs with shelter needs is a clear indication that longer term shelter



solutions aimed at building the resilience of affected households are required in order to sustainable meet their shelter needs moving forward.



## ANNEXES

## Annex 1: Household survey questionnaire

Research questions	IN #	Indicator group / sector	Indicator / Variable	Questionnaire Question	Enumerator Instructions	Questionnaire Responses
			Informed consent	Do you consent to participate in this survey?		Yes/No/Ineligible
	A.1	Location	Province	In which province is this household located?		Dropdown provinces list
	A.2		District	In which district is this household located?		Dropdown districts list
	A.3		Village	In what village is this household located?		Dropdown villages list
	A.4.1	Strata	% of households categorized as IDP for this assessment	Is the current location of the household (where the interview is taking place), the area of origin of the majority of the household members?		Yes/No
	A.4.2		% of household classified as non-displaced disaster-affected and host community for this assessment	Has your household been damaged or severely damaged by natural disaster since the start of 2019?		Yes/No
	A.5	Demographics	Gender of respondent	Gender of respondent	Enumerator observation	Male/Female
	A.6		Age of respondent	How old are you?	Integer	
	A.7		% of households by age/gender of HoH	Are you the head of household?	Head of household is the main decision maker for the household. A household is a group of people who live in the same shelter and eat from the same food pot.	Yes/No
	A.7.1		% of households by gender of HoH	[If no to A.6] What is the gender of the head of household?		Male/Female
	A.7.2		% of households by age of HoH	[If no to A.6] What is the age of the head of household?	Integer	
	A.7.3		% of HoH by marital status	What is the marital status of the head of household?		Married Married, but spouse living elsewhere in Afghanistan Married, but spouse living in a different country Single Divorced Widowed I do not want to answer

	A.8		% of households by number of members Average household size	How many individuals are living in the household?	Integer	
	A.9		Number of Female New born ( < 1 year )	Starting with the youngest, please indicate the age and gender of the individuals in your household, including yourself.	Integers , all ages listed on one screen	
	A.9		Number of Male New born ( < 1 year )		Integer	
	A.9		Number of Female children ( 1 < 5yr )		Integer	
	A.9		Number of Male children ( 1 < 5yr )		Integer	
	A.9		Number of School-aged girls ( 5 < 16yr )		Integer	
	A.9		Number of School-aged boys ( 5 < 16 yr )		Integer	
	A.9		Number of Female adolescents ( 16 < 18yr )		Integer	
	A.9		Number of Male adolescents ( 16 < 18yr )		Integer	
	A.9		Number of Female adults ( 18 < 50yr )		Integer	
	A.9		Number of Male adults ( 18 < 50yr )		Integer	
	A.9		Number of Female older adults ( 50 < 64yr )		Integer	
	A.9		Number of Male older adults ( 50 < 64yr )		Integer	
	A.9		Number of Female elders ( 65+ )		Integer	
	A.9		Number of Male elders ( 65+ )		Integer	
	A.10	Vulnerability	Number of HH members with disability	How many members of your household have a disability or chronic illness that prevents them from completing everyday tasks?	Integer. A person has a disability or chronic illness if they have a physical or mental problem which prevents them from taking care of themselves or participating in society the same as others.	

	<b>A.11</b>		Number of pregnant household members	How many women in your household are pregnant?	Integer	
	<b>A.12</b>		Number of female households members breastfeeding	How many women in your household are currently breastfeeding?	Integer	
	<b>A.13</b>		% of household members with tazkira	Which adults in the household have a tazkira?	Select one	Only head of household All adult household members (aged 18 +) Some adult household members (aged 18+) No adults in household have a Tazkira Do not know
	<b>A.14</b>	Socioeconomic Status	% of households by number of breadwinners	How many breadwinners (currently working and over 16 years) are in your household?	Integer. A breadwinner is an individual over age 16 earning an income and contributing to household finances	
	<b>A.15</b>		Median and mean cash income	What was the total cash income from all sources for your household in the last 30 days (in AFN)?	Integer	
	<b>A.16.1</b>		% of household by source of household earnings	In the last 30 days, has money come into the household through the following means?	Select multiple	Income through work/labour Remittances/gifts Selling personal belongings Humanitarian aid (cash distribution) Government benefits (pension) Other
	<b>A.16.2</b>		% of households by type of employment	[If money through work/labour in A.16.1] In the last 30 days, what type of work provided the majority of income for your household?	Select one	Cash crop farming Livestock farming Rental property Business / sale of goods / services Unskilled daily labour / no contract Skilled daily labour / no contract Formal employment / with contract Other (Specify)
	<b>A.18.2</b>		% of displaced households, by AoO	[If 'no' to A.4.1] In which province did you live before you were displaced for the first time?	Drop down	Dropdown Province list

	<b>A.18.3</b>		% of displaced households, by push factor	[If 'no' to A.4.1] What was the main reason why your household chose to leave your area of origin?	Select one	Natural disaster Armed conflict / military operation Clashes among AGEs/AoGs Intimidation and harassment by AGEs/AoGs Intimidation and harassment by government Inter-tribal or factional fighting Cross-border rocket shelling Kidnapping /abduction Land dispute/land occupation Other (Specify)
	<b>A.18.4</b>		% of displaced households, by time in current location	[If 'no' to A.4.1] How long ago did your household arrive at the current location?	Select one	Less than one month ago Less than three month but more than one month ago Less than six months but more than 3 months ago Less than one year but more than six months ago More than one year ago
	<b>A.18.5</b>		% of displaced households, by pull factor	[If 'no' to A.4.1] What was the main reason why your household chose to come to this location?	Select one	Family / friends are here Better employment opportunities Only staying temporary until moving to next destination Better security Better access to services Affordability of location Only place that could be found Other (Specify)
<b>What are the different shelter typologies accessed by the populations of interest?</b>	<b>B.1</b>	Shelter	% of displaced / non-displaced / non-displaced disaster affected households by type of accommodation	What type of shelter does the household live in?	Select one enumerator observation	Tents (emergency shelter) Makeshift shelter Transitional Permanent (mud or bricks) Collective centre (not intended for living) Open space Unfinished shelter (house) Damaged house Other (Specify)
	<b>B.2</b>	Shelter damage and repairs	% of displaced / non-displaced / non-displaced disaster affected households with damaged shelter	Has the household's current shelter been damaged in the last six months?	Select one	Yes/no
	<b>B.2.1</b>			[If yes to B.2] What was the main cause of this damage?	Select one	Yes/no
	<b>B.3</b>			What is the extent of the damage to the shelter overall?	Select one	Good (no visible damage) Minor (some insignificant damage, does not affect shelter stability) Bad (significant structural damage) Fully destroyed



	B.3.1			What is the main roof material (covering) of this household's shelter?	Enumerator observation	Metal sheets (CGI) Slate Mud & grass Do not know Other (Specify)
	B.3.2			What is the extent of the damage to the roof?	Enumerator observation	'Good (no visible damage) Minor (some insignificant damage, does not affect shelter stability) Bad (significant structural damage) Fully destroyed
	B.3.3			What is the main wall material (primary infill) of this household's shelter?	Enumerator observation	Timber Stone Bricks Concrete Handmade tent Tarpaulin tent Do not know Other (Specify)
	B.3.4			What is the extent of the damage to the walls?	Enumerator observation	'Good (no visible damage) Minor (some insignificant damage, does not affect shelter stability) Bad (significant structural damage) Fully destroyed
	B.3.5		% of displaced / non-displaced / non-displaced disaster affected households unable to make repairs to damaged shelter	[If minor, bad, or fully damaged to B.3] Have you been able to make the repairs that you wanted to your shelter?		yes/no
	B.3.6			[If no to B.2.5] Why were you unable to make the repairs that you wanted?	Select multiple	Lack of authorization to do repairs Shelter / repair materials and labour were not available in the market Shelter and repair materials are too expensive Repairs require professionals but they are unavailable Repairs require professionals but we cannot afford their services Other
	B.4	Living space	% of households by number of rooms for household use	How many rooms in the indoor living space are used by the household?	Integer	
	B.5		% of households with separate room available for female household members	Is there a separate room available for female household members?		Yes/No
	B.6		% of households with livestock living in living space	Are livestock kept in the same indoor living space as household members?		Yes/No

What are the specific shelter, living, and rent arrangements between host and displaced household members?	C.1	Tenancy	% of displaced households accommodation arrangement	What is your accommodation arrangement for this shelter?	Read options, Select one	Owned with documentation Owned without documentation Rented Hosted by friends/family for free Staying in accommodation for free with owner's consent Staying in accommodation for free without owner's consent Other (Specify) Prefer not to answer
	C.2		% of households with legal documentation proving ownership of their property/shelter	What is the tenure agreement of the living space used by the household?	Select one	Land title deed issued by Court of Law Customary tenure document Letter of permission from Government Authorities Safayee Notebook Rental agreement (written) Rental agreement (verbal) None (occupied without permission) Other (specify) Prefer not to answer
	C.2.1		% of households by length of rental/hosting arrangement	[If any rental agreement in C.2] For how much longer is this agreement valid?	Select one	Less than one month 1-3 months 4-6 months 7-12 months More than one year
	C.2.2		Average expenditure for rent	[If rented in C.1] How much did your household spend (in AFN) on rent last month?	Integer	
	Hosting arrangements		<b>Non-displaced</b>			
	C.3		% of non-displaced households hosting IDPs	[If 'yes' to A.18] Does your household host displaced individuals within your shelter?		yes/no
	C.3.1		% of non-displaced households hosting IDPs by relationship	[If 'yes' to C.3] What is your relationship to the IDPs you're hosting?	Select one	They are family They are friends Contact through family Contact through friends Contact through local authorities Contact through private business Other
	C.3.2		% of non-displaced households hosting IDPs by length of time hosting	[If yes to C.3] How long ago did you start hosting them?	Select one	Less than one month ago 1-3 months ago 4-6 months ago 7-12 months ago More than one year ago
			<b>Displaced</b>			

	<b>C.4</b>		% of IDP households being hosted by relationship	[If hosted in C.1] How do you know or how did you establish contact with the host family?	Select one	They are family They are friends Contact through family Contact through friends Contact through local authorities Contact through private business Other
	<b>C.4.1</b>		% of hosted IDPs paying compensation	[If hosted in C.1] Do you pay to be hosted?		Yes/no
<b>What is the level of tenure security/safety and dignity that affected populations have been able to achieve?</b>	<b>D.1</b>	Security of tenure	% of households able to pay rent	[If 'rented in C.1] In the last 3 months, could you afford to pay your rent on time?		yes/no
	<b>D.1.1</b>		% of households reporting a change in rent	[If 'rented in C.1] In the last 3 months, has rent increased, decreased, or stayed the same?	Select one	Increased Decreased Stayed the same Prefer not to answer
	<b>D.3</b>		% of households that have been evicted in the past 6 months	In the past 3 months, have you experienced an eviction?		yes/no
	<b>D.3.1</b>			[If yes to D.3] For what reason were you evicted?	Select multiple	Unable to pay rent Disputes about rental price Dispute about ownership Other disagreements with landlord Dispute with host family Other (specify)
	<b>D.4</b>		% of households with concerns about eviction in the next 3 months	Do you expect or fear that you will be evicted from your accommodation in the coming 3 months?		yes/no
	<b>D.4.1</b>			[If yes to D.4] Why do expect or fear eviction from this shelter?	Select multiple	Unable to pay rent Disputes about rental price Dispute about ownership Other disagreements with landlord Dispute with host family Other (specify)
	<b>D.5</b>	Build Back Better	% of households with structurally weak shelter	Is the shelter foundation free from cracks?		yes/no/don't know
	<b>D.6</b>			Does the shelter have ANY plinth bands?	Plinth bands are concrete beams along the base of the shelter that buffer the structure from the ground.	yes/no/don't know
	<b>D.7</b>			Does the shelter have ANY corner bracing?	A corner bracing is short piece of wood or metal set horizontally where two walls meet at the ceiling, used to stiffen the structure	yes/no/don't know
	<b>D.8</b>			Do ANY doors and/or windows have lintels?	A lintel is a horizontal block that spans the space or opening between two vertical supports of a doorway or window.	yes/no/don't know

	D.9			Are all door and window edges starting AT LEAST 60 cm from all corners?		yes/no/don't know
	D.10		% of households with shelters near environmental hazards	Does water drain away from the shelter? (e.g. after rains, does it pool around the home, or drain elsewhere)	For example, after rain, does water pool around the home, or drain elsewhere?	yes/no/don't know
	D.11			Have any trees been cut down and/or hillsides been excavated in the immediate area?	Immediate area = 10m	yes/no/don't know
	D.12	Protection	% of households living in shelters without a lock	Does your shelter have a lock?		yes/no
	D.13		% of households feeling unsafe in their shelter, by reason	Do you and the rest of your household feel safe in this shelter?		yes/no
	D.13.1			[If no to D.13] Why not?	Select multiple	Crime Armed group violence/threats Weak/damaged/collapsed structure Natural hazards Other
1) What are the most reported challenges related to ES/NFI that the populations of interest face across the assessed provinces? 2) What coping strategies do the populations of interest mostly resort to when faced with challenges related to ES/NFI across the	E.1	Assistance received	% of households receiving humanitarian assistance, by type of assistance	Have you received humanitarian assistance in the past 3 months?		yes/no
	E.1.1			[If 'yes' to E.1] What assistance have you received?	Select all that apply	Shelter Winterisation NFI Food Health care Drinking water Hygiene training/ kits Cash assistance Education for children under 18 Psychological support Other (Specify)
	E.1.2		% of households receiving shelter assistance, by form of assistance	[If shelter to E.1.1] In what form have you received this shelter assistance?	Select all that apply	Cash In-kind NFI Shelter materials Shelter labour Other
	E.1.3			[If 'cash' selected in E.1.2] How much cash did you receive for shelter aid (in AFN)?	Integer	
	E.1.4			[If 'shelter' to E.1.1] From whom did you receive this shelter assistance?	Select one	Family and friends Local community Mosque Afghanistan government Local organization International organization Other

assessed province s?	E.1.5		% of households receiving nfi assistance, by form of assistance	[If nfi to E.1.1] In what form have you received this NFI assistance?	Select all that apply	Cash In-kind NFI Shelter materials Shelter labour Other
	E.1.6			[If 'cash' selected in E.1.5] How much cash did you receive in NFI aid (in AFN)?	Integer	
	E.1.7			[If nfi to E.1.1] From whom did you receive this NFI assistance?	Select one	Family and friends Local community Mosque Afghanistan government Local organization International organization Other
	E.1.8		% of households receiving winterization assistance, by form of assistance	[If winterization to E.1.1] In what form have you received this winterization assistance?	Select all that apply	Cash In-kind NFI Shelter materials Shelter labour Other
	E.1.9			[If 'cash' selected in E.1.8] How much cash did you receive in winter aid (in AFN)?	Integer	
	E.1.10			[If winterization to E.1.1] From whom did you receive this winterization assistance?	Select one	Family and friends Local community Mosque Afghanistan government Local organization International organization Other
	E.2	Challenges with ESNFI aid	% of households reporting challenges with ESNFI aid distributions, by type of challenge	Have you faced any challenges with getting to aid distributions, receiving aid at these distributions, or using shelter materials or household items received through distributions by humanitarian actors?	Select multiple	Yes, with accessing aid Yes, with receiving aid Yes, with using aid No challenges
	E.2.1		% of households reporting challenges accessing aid distributions	[If 'yes with accessing aid' to E.2] What was that difficulty in getting to aid distributions?	Select all that apply	Physical constraints (roads damaged / blocked) No means of transport to distribution points Security constraints (insecurity on the route) People with reduced mobility do not have access to the distribution point Aid actors never work in the area Other

	<b>E.2.2</b>		% of households with challenges receiving aid at distributions	[If 'yes with receiving aid' to E.2] What was that difficulty in receiving aid?	Select all that apply	Household received less assistance than other households with same needs Household received no assistance because they don't have Tazkira Political interference prevented receiving assistance Security issues at distribution points Some groups are discriminated against at distributions Did not qualify as eligible for assistance Other
	<b>E.2.3</b>		% of households reporting difficulty using aid distributed	[If 'yes with using aid' to E.2] What was that difficulty in using aid?	Select all that apply	'Items provided were not enough Items provided were not what was needed Unfamiliar with items distributed so did not know how to use Other
	<b>E.2.4</b>	Coping strategies for shelter material aid	% of households reporting negative coping mechanisms for shelter materials	[If any 'yes' to E.2] What did you do when you could not get these items?	Select all that apply	Sale of household's goods Sale of shelter/land Reduction of non-food expenses (education, health, etc.) Reduction of food consumption Borrow money / take on debt Scavenge for materials Borrow or share materials Use money otherwise used for other purchases, Sell assets otherwise used for other purposes, Adults work extra shifts/jobs or begging Children work or beg None of the above Other
	<b>E.3</b>	Shelter access and coping	% of households without access to shelter	In the last 3 months, has there been times when you were not able to find shelter for your household?		Yes/No



	E.3.1			[If yes to E.3] Why were you unable to find shelter?	Select multiple	Lack of identification documents Lack of current housing documents Lack of personal connections to find available shelter Certain groups not allowed to get legal authorisation Legal authorisation system too confusing for household to use Lack of money to afford shelter Other Prefer not to answer
	E.3.2		% of households using negative coping mechanisms due to lack of shelter access	[If yes to E.3] In these times, what did you do?	Select all that apply	Lived in fully damaged shelter Lived in partially damaged shelter Lived in makeshift shelter Lived in tent Lived in space usually intended for livestock Male members slept out to decongest shelter at night Rented temporary accommodation Lived with relatives or friends Lived in overcrowded/collective shelter Other
	E.4	Challenges with market access for shelter materials	% of households reporting shelter material access at local markets	Were there any shelter materials you needed to buy in the last three months but were unable to afford or find in markets?		yes/no/don't know
	E.4.1		% of households reporting reasons for lack of access to shelter material at markets	[If yes to E.4] What was the main reason you could not get these materials?	Select one	Physical constraints preventing access to markets (e.g. damaged/blocked roads) Security constraints preventing access to markets (insecurity on the road or in the market) Lack of transport to the market Closed market Items not available in the market Items available but cannot afford Other Do not know
	E.5	Challenges with market access for NFIs	% of households reporting NFI access at local markets	Were there any household items you needed to buy in the last three months but were unable to afford or access in markets?		Yes/No

	E.5.1		% of households reporting reasons for lack of access to NFIs at markets	[If yes to E.5] What was the main reason you could not get these materials?	Select one	"Physical constraints preventing access to markets (e.g. damaged/blocked roads) Security constraints preventing access to markets (insecurity on the road or in the market) Lack of transport to the market Closed market Items not available in the market Items available but too expensive Other Do not know"
	E.6	Access to information regarding ESNFI	% of households reporting no access to information regarding NGO distribution of ESNFI aid	In the past 6 months, have you received any information on how to receive Shelter or NFI support?		Yes/No
	E.6.1		% of households reporting source of information regarding NGO distribution of ESNFI aid	[If yes to E.6] What is the source of this information?	Select all that apply	Media (internet, radio etc.) Friends / relatives Approached directly by assistance provider Community leader (mullah, malik, etc.) Local council / government Other (specify) Not sure
What are the priority needs in terms of ES/NFI across the three populations of interest and across the assessed provinces?	F.1	Existing access	% of households reporting ownership of key NFIs	Do you currently have the following items in your household?	yes/no/don't know for each option	Bedding items Mattresses/Sleeping mats Cooking utensils Water storage containers (cans, buckets with lid, etc.) Solar lamps Heating fuel; Winter jacket (one per person) Winter shoes (one pair per person) Winter caps (one per person) Winter gloves (one pair per person)
	F.2		% of households reporting main energy source for heating	What is the main source of energy your household uses for heating?	Select one	Wood, bushes Coal Charcoal LPG (liquid petroleum gas) Electricity Animal dung Waste (paper, plastic, carton board, etc.) Other

	<b>F.3</b>		% of households reporting access to key NFIs at markets	Are the following items available in the nearest market?	select one 'Impossible to get' / difficult to find / can be found / easily found for each:	Timber Glass for windows Solid fuel Blankets Warm jacket
	<b>F.3.1</b>			[If not 'impossible to get' at market in F.3] Has the price of the following items changed since last winter?	Increased / same / decreased / don't know for each:	Timber Glass for windows Solid fuel Blankets Warm jacket
	<b>F.5.1</b>		% of households who have received a physical shelter in the last year	Has a shelter been built as aid for your family in the last year?	Select one	Yes/no
	<b>F.5.2</b>			[If yes to F.5.1] How long did it take to construct this shelter?	Select one	Less than one month One month Two months Three months Four months Five months Six months More than six months
	<b>F.5.3</b>			[If yes to F.5.1] Who built this shelter for you?		International organization National organization Other
	<b>F.6</b>	Priority Needs	% of households indicating priority needs (general)	What are your household's current priority needs? List up to 3	Select up to three	Employment / Skills training Agricultural / livestock support Food Health care Water / sanitation Shelter NFI Winterisation Legal advice Debt repayment Security Education No needs Other
	<b>F.7</b>		% of households taking steps to prepare for the winter months, by steps	Are you taking any steps to prepare for the coming winter?		yes / no
	<b>F.7.1</b>			[If yes to F.7] What are those steps?	Select multiple	Borrow from friends / relatives Stock pile firewood Reduce number or size of meals Movement / change location Other

	F.8.1		% of households reporting priority needs to prepare for winter	Specifically regarding shelter and household items, what is your household's first priority need during the winter period?	Select one	Heating materials / Fuel Shelter repair / insulation Rental support Clothing Tarpaulin sheets Buckets or other water containers Cooking materials/kitchen materials Blankets and quilts Heating stoves Thermal floor mats Utilities No needs Other (Specify)
	F.8.2			Specifically regarding household items, what is your household's second priority need during the winter period?	Select one (cannot select the same as first priority)	as above
	F.8.3			Specifically regarding household items, what is your household's third priority need during the winter period?	Select one (cannot select the same as first or second priority)	as above
<b>What would be the preferred modalities of aid provision related to ES/NFI of the populations of interest across the assessed provinces?</b>	G.1	Preferred modalities for aid	% of households reporting preferred modalities for NFI assistance	If you could choose to receive non-food item assistance in any form, which one would you prefer?	Select one read out options	Direct distribution of articles (in-kind) Cash for the purchase of articles Vouchers for the purchase of articles Training on how to use distributed articles No preference
	G.2		% of households reporting preferred modalities for shelter assistance	If you could choose to receive shelter assistance in any form, which one would you prefer?	Select one read out options	Direct distribution of shelter/shelter materials (in-kind) Distributions of cash for the rent or purchase of shelter/shelter materials Distributions of vouchers for the purchase of shelter/shelter materials Training on how to use shelter materials External actor directly assists with shelter repairs (NGOs, local council, etc.) Discounted accommodation No preference

	<b>G.3</b>		% of households reporting preferred modalities for winterization assistance	If you could choose to receive assistance for winter specifically assistance in any form, which one would you prefer?	Select one read out options	Direct distribution of shelter/shelter materials (in-kind) Distributions of cash for the rent or purchase of shelter/shelter materials Distributions of vouchers for the purchase of shelter/shelter materials Training on how to use shelter materials External actor directly assists with shelter repairs (NGOs, local council, etc.) Discounted accommodation No preference
	<b>G.4</b>	Preferred use of cash assistance	% of households reporting priority expenditure for cash assistance	If you received aid in the form of cash, what would be the three main things you would spend it on?	Select up to 3	Agricultural / livestock support Food Health care Water / Sanitation / Hygiene Education Debt repayment Shelter repair / insulation Rental support Heating materials / Fuel Winter NFIs (example, blankets, thermal floor mats) Other NFI (e.g. kitchen pots or utensils, solar lights, clothing) Other (Specify)
	<b>G.5</b>		% of households reporting preferred nfi purchases using cash aid	If you received aid in the form of cash or vouchers, what are the top three NFIs you would prefer to purchase yourself using this type of aid?	Select up to 3	Bedding items Mattresses/Sleeping mats Cooking utensils Water storage containers (cans, buckets with lid, etc.) sources of light / torches solar lamps Heating fuel; Winter sweater (one per person) Winter shoes (one pair per person) Winter caps (one per person) Winter gloves (one pair per person) Other None of the above items

## Annex 2: Focus group discussion questionnaire

Research questions	#	Sub-research Question	Sub-research question group	Questionnaire QUESTION	Probes
				In which province is the FGD taking place?	
				In which district is the FGD taking place?	
				In which village is the FGD taking place?	
				Which population group is participating?	Displaced / Non-displaced Disaster-affected / Non-displaced
Introduction/Warm up	A.1			What type of shelter do you live in? For how long have you lived here?	
	A.2			What are your most important concerns regarding your shelter?	
Shelter typologies and conditions	B.1	Describe your shelter, including damage and repairs.	Living space	Is your shelter big enough for all members of your household to live and sleep in? Why or why not?	
	B.2		Damage and Repairs	Has your shelter been damaged in the last six months?	If yes, what were the damages? What caused the damage? What did you do to fix the damage?
	B.3			Are you satisfied with the quality of repairs you've been able to make to your shelter? Why or why not?	What prevented you from making the repairs you wanted?
	B.4			Who takes care of repairing the shelter?	
	B.5			Where do you find the materials for repairs normally?	
	B.6		Debt and Repairs	In what ways, if any, has repairing your shelter affected your household's financial situation?	Have you had to take on debt or spend money that your family needed for other necessary items?
What is the level of tenure security/safety and dignity that affected populations have been able to achieve?	C.1	How safe do you feel in your shelter?	Protection against severe weather	Does your shelter protect you from bad weather and natural hazards? How so?	What kind of bad weather or natural hazards are of concern to you and your shelter?
	C.2			In your opinion, will your shelter provide adequate protection/warmth for the winter season? Why or why not?	
	C.3		Protection of life / privacy	How could your shelter be improved to protect you better during the winter?	
	C.4	How secure do you feel in this shelter, in	Issues with tenancy	Were you or other families in this area facing challenges with tenancy agreements (agreements to occupy their shelter) in the last 12 months?	What were the problems? With whom? How did it impact the household?



	<b>C.5</b>	terms of tenure?		In the community over the past year, have evictions been common?	What were the reasons for eviction? What did the families do after they were evicted?
	<b>C.6</b>	What improvements needed are needed to improve security and dignity?	Improvements for security and dignity	In your opinion, what does your household need most to improve your current shelter situation?	What would be your suggestions to the humanitarian community to help you meet your shelter needs?
What are the priority needs in terms of ES/NFI across the three populations of interest and across the assessed provinces?	<b>D.1</b>	What assistance have you received?	Assistance and access	Are you aware of the types of shelter and household item assistance available in your community?	If yes, what information have you heard about this assistance? What was the source of this information?
	<b>D.2</b>			Has your family and/or someone else you know in the community received assistance with their shelter from humanitarian organizations, such as building materials or items for your household (NFI)?	In what form was that assistance received? (cash, in-kind items, training, etc.)?
	<b>D.3</b>	Were these items useful to our household? Why or why not?	Usefulness of distributions	[If aid distributions mentioned] Do you recognize the aid items that are distributed?	Did you know what to do with the items? How did you use the items?
	<b>D.4</b>			Was the assistance you received what was needed to meet your household's needs? Why or why not?	Which items were the most useful and which were not at all useful? Why?
	<b>D.5</b>		Priority needs for NFI or shelter	Which NFI or shelter items do you still need, that were not included in the assistance you have already received?	Which item that you listed is your most important need right now?
	<b>D.6</b>	Have you received cash aid? Was it helpful? What form is best?	Cash/Vouchers	Have you received cash assistance in the past year? What did you spend it on?	How has your living situation (ability to meet your basic needs) changed since receiving cash?
	<b>D.7</b>			Have you or other households in your community ever received conditional cash assistance for winterization materials? 'Conditional' meaning the first payment of cash needs to be spent on specific items before the second cash payment is provided.	Were you satisfied with the conditional cash assistance? Would you like to continue receiving aid in this form? Why or why not?
	<b>D.8</b>	What are the most important items your household needs to prepare for winter?	Priority Needs for winter	Are households in your community taking any steps to prepare for winter?	What are those steps?
	<b>D.9</b>			What support does your household or community need most during the winter period?	'How would you like to receive assistance for the winter months in the future? Why?  What would be your suggestions to the humanitarian community to help you meet your winter needs?

1) What are the most reported challenges related to ES/NFI that the populations of interest face across the assessed provinces? 2) What coping strategies do the populations of interest mostly resort to when faced with challenges related to ES/NFI across the assessed provinces, including IDP/host community relationships?	E.1	What barriers do you face in accessing shelter or NFI assistance with NGOs?	Barriers to assistance	Did your family and/or someone else you know in the community have any problems with getting aid, including getting to distributions, receiving aid at distributions, or using aid that was distributed? What were those problems?	
	E.2			What has your family and/or someone else you know in the community done to overcome or avoid these problems with getting aid?	
	E.3	Are there items that are not available in markets or distribution s?	Market access	How would you describe your nearest market?	How many shops are there? How well stocked is it? What kinds of goods are available? How often do you go to this market? 'How long does it take to get to this market?
	E.4			Are shelter and NFI materials affordable at this market?	What do you do when the materials are too expensive?
	E.5			Are there shelter or NFI items you need that are not available at all at this market?	What do you do when you cannot find these items?
What would be the preferred modalities of aid provision related to ES/NFI of the populations of interest across the assessed provinces?	F.1	How do you prefer to receive shelter and NFI assistance?	Preferred forms of ESNFI aid	How would you like to receive shelter and NFI assistance throughout the year? Why?	How do these preferences change from spring to summer to winter?
Conclusions	G.1		Other thoughts and comments	Do you have any final thoughts on shelter, NFI or assistance for winter? Please explain.	