

**Preliminary Findings of the Area-Based Assessment including Key Informants Interviews (KIIs) and Mapping Focus Group Discussions (MFGDs)**

# Area-Based Response in Urban Areas 2023 Kabul, Afghanistan

---

29 Feb 2024

# Coordination Framework

Consortium  
Partners:



---

Funded By:





# Contents

- 01** Introduction
- 02** Methodology
- 03** Key Findings KIIs
- 04** Key Findings MFGD
- 05** Conclusion

A light gray world map is centered in the background, overlaid with a subtle geometric pattern of thin, light gray lines forming a network of triangles. The map shows the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The text '01' is positioned in the upper center, over the European continent.

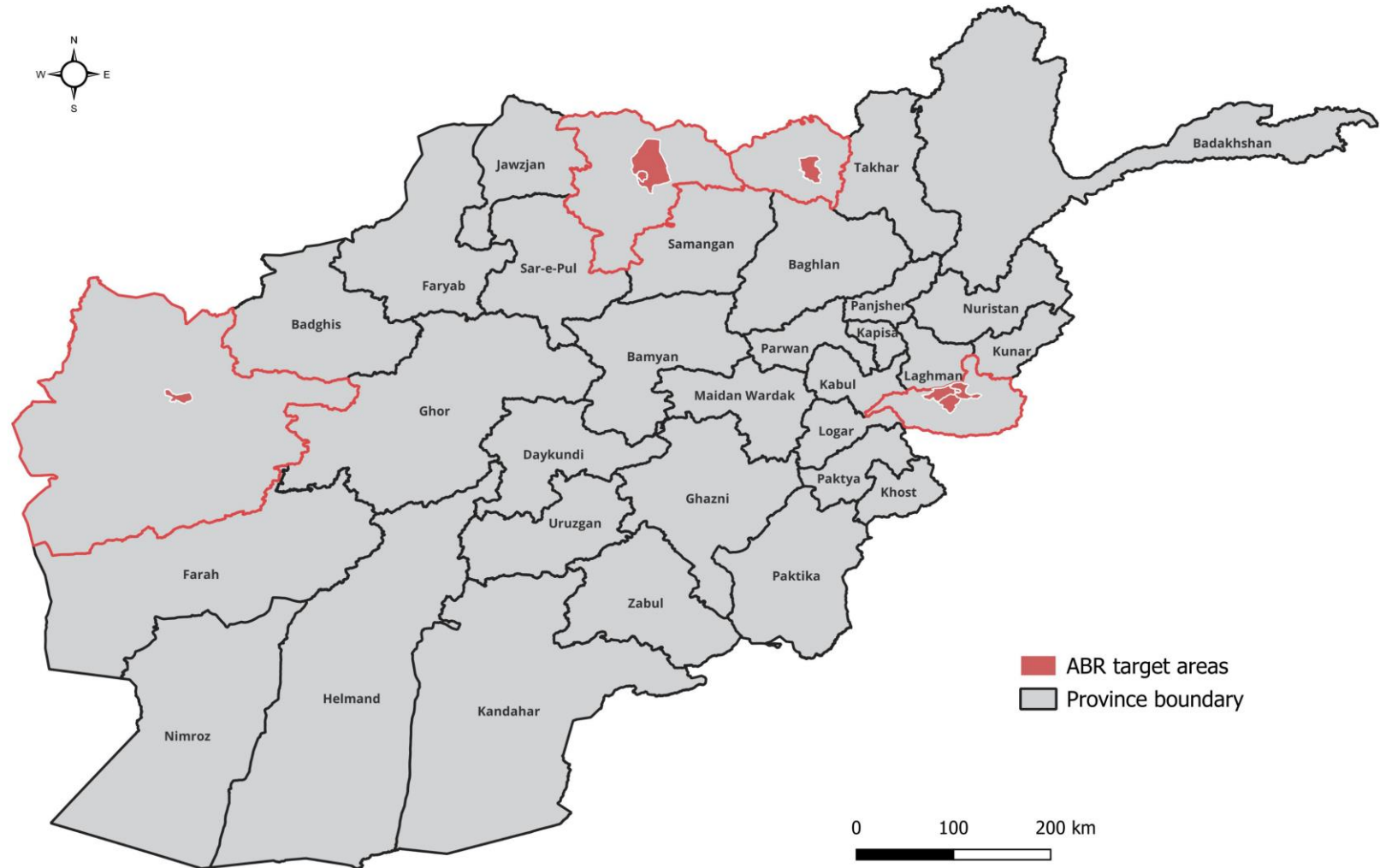
01

# Introduction

# Project Overview

The Area Based Response (ABR) project, is a project led by a consortium of

- REACH (Leading on assessments)
- ACTED (Grants lead, as well as provide humanitarian response through community centers)
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) (Provide humanitarian response through community centers)



The ABR uses a neighborhood-based approach to support the streamlining of humanitarian response delivery into local planning frameworks and to ensure the successful integration of vulnerable populations of informal settlements (ISETs) into existing service delivery networks of four large host cities that are part of the project: **Kunduz, Herat, Jalalabad and Mazar-e-Sharif.**

# Data Collection Methods & Timeline

16 - 21 July, 23

**MFGDs**

*Settlements  
Mapping*

11 - 27 Sep, 23

**Key  
informant  
interviews  
(KIIs)**

*Community needs and  
service provision,  
data recorded at the  
community level*

1 - 15 Mar, 24

**Community  
response  
planning**

*Workshops with  
communities to create  
response plans*

01- 25 May, 24

**Community  
monitoring  
tools kit**

*Addressing  
accountability to  
affected populations*

A light gray world map is centered on the background. The map is composed of various landmasses and is overlaid with a network of thin, light gray lines that form a complex, interconnected geometric pattern, resembling a low-poly mesh or a network diagram. In the center of the map, over the European continent, the number '02' is displayed in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

02

# Methodology

# Mapping Focus Group Discussions

Data collection period: 16 -21  
July 2023

Mapping Focus Group Discussions (MFGDs) segregated by gender, each MFGD involved **8-12 participants** with both settlements:

- IDPs and community leaders in ISETs
- Host community and community leaders in Gozars (wakil Gozars)
- Used **quantitative** and **qualitative** methods to collect data
- Digitization involving GIS.

## Sampling

	Mazar-e-Sharif	Kunduz
Male MFGDs	34	16
Female MFGDs	34	8
<b>Total MFGDs</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>24</b>



# Key Informant Interviews

Dat collection period: 11-27  
September 2023

## KII Profiles

With local leaders from:

- Host community in Gozars
- IDPs in ISETs
- One third of KIIs to be with women

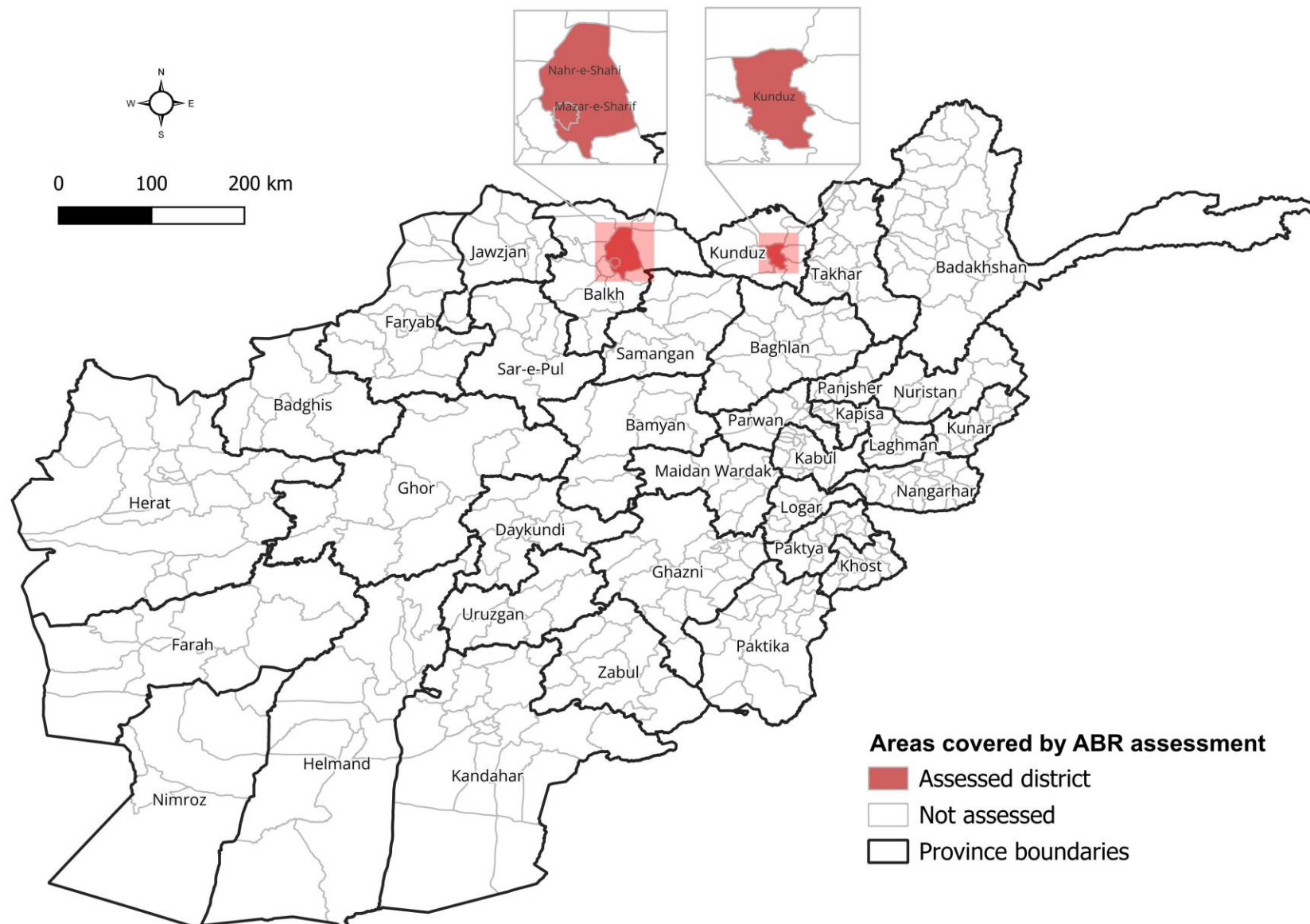
## Sampling

	Mazar-e-Sharif	Kunduz
Male KIIs	622	256
Female KIIs	311	128
<b>Total KIIs</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>384</b>

# Assessment coverage

## Limitations:

- Results should be considered as **indicative**. Findings in this presentation are preliminary results obtained from ISSET/Host community representatives
- The information from all KIIs was weighted and analyzed at ISETs, Gozars, Nahiya and city level and represent **% of community leaders** rather than percentage of population
- KIs' reports might be influenced by their knowledge/education, culture and lived experiences.



# Women's Inclusion

**33%** Of all KI interviews were conducted with women representatives by women enumerators through phone.

**45%** Of Mapping Focus Groups Discussion (MFGDs) took place with women representatives by women facilitators in person.

## Female Mapping Focused Groups Discussion

- 42 MFGDs/92
- Women leaders, female head of households and local CSOs represented Gozar/ISets

## Female Key Informant Interviews

- 439 interviews/1317
- Teachers, local women leaders represented Gozar/ISets

A light gray world map is centered in the background, overlaid with a complex, low-poly geometric pattern of thin lines. The map shows the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The text '03' is positioned above the main title.

03

# Key Findings KIIs

# Key Sectors covered for assessment



**Food Security & Nutrition**



**Livelihood**



**Shelter**



**Healthcare**



**Education**



**Employment**



**Protections**



**Wash**



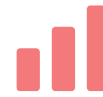
**NFI**



**Market Access**



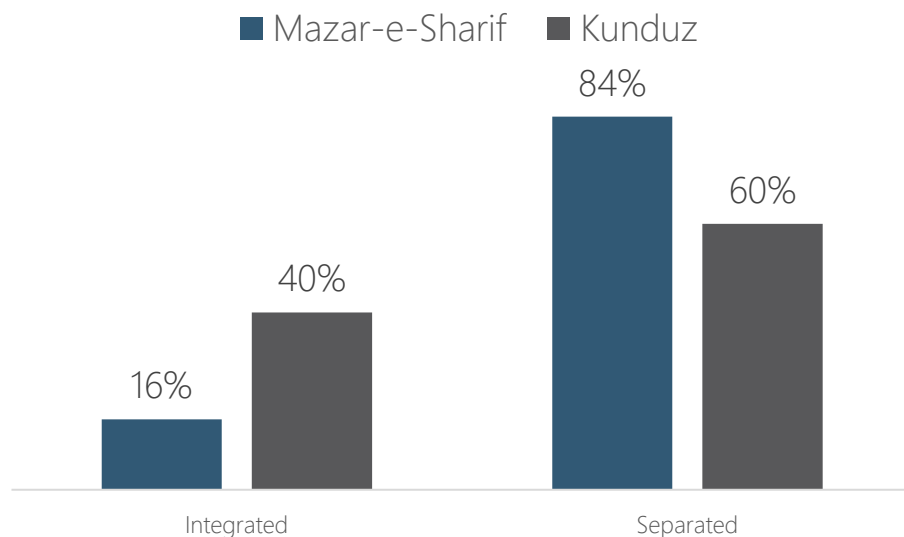
**Stakeholders**



**Key Concerns**

# Settlements Profiles

## Percentage of key informants reporting types of ISETs by locations



**Separated** are those whose residents are solely composed of displaced individuals and hence not integrated with host communities, and often lacking access to services.

**Integrated** residents have successfully integrated into host communities or resettled with access to services and support.

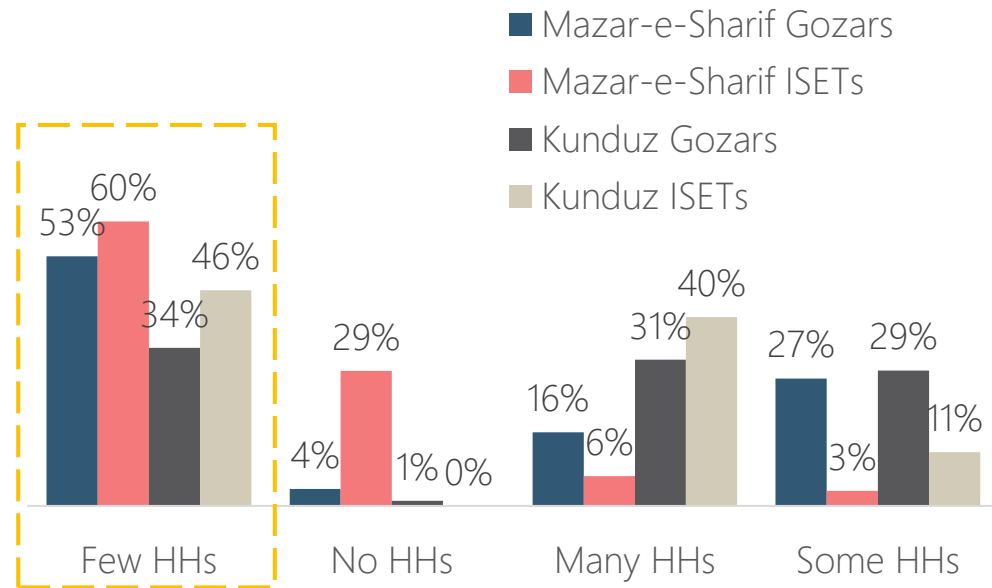
## Main displacement reasons

- 96% To find work
- 62% For safety reasons
- 61% To access basic services

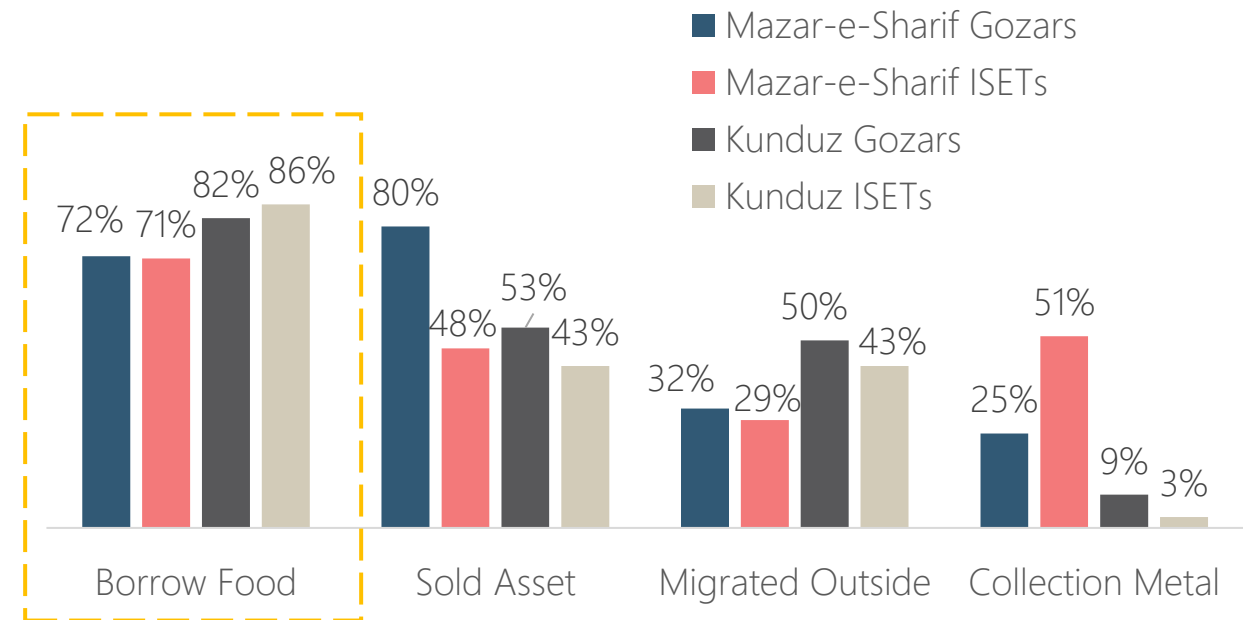
ISETs in Mazar-e-Sharif had less integration within the host community. ISETs' integration into the host community is influenced by various factors such as local policies, availability of resources, community acceptance, and the overall socio-economic environment in each city.

# Access to Food and Coping Strategies

% of KIs reporting households in their ISET/Gozar with access to sufficient food in the past 30 day



% of KIs, reporting main coping strategies used by households in their ISET/Gozar in the past month

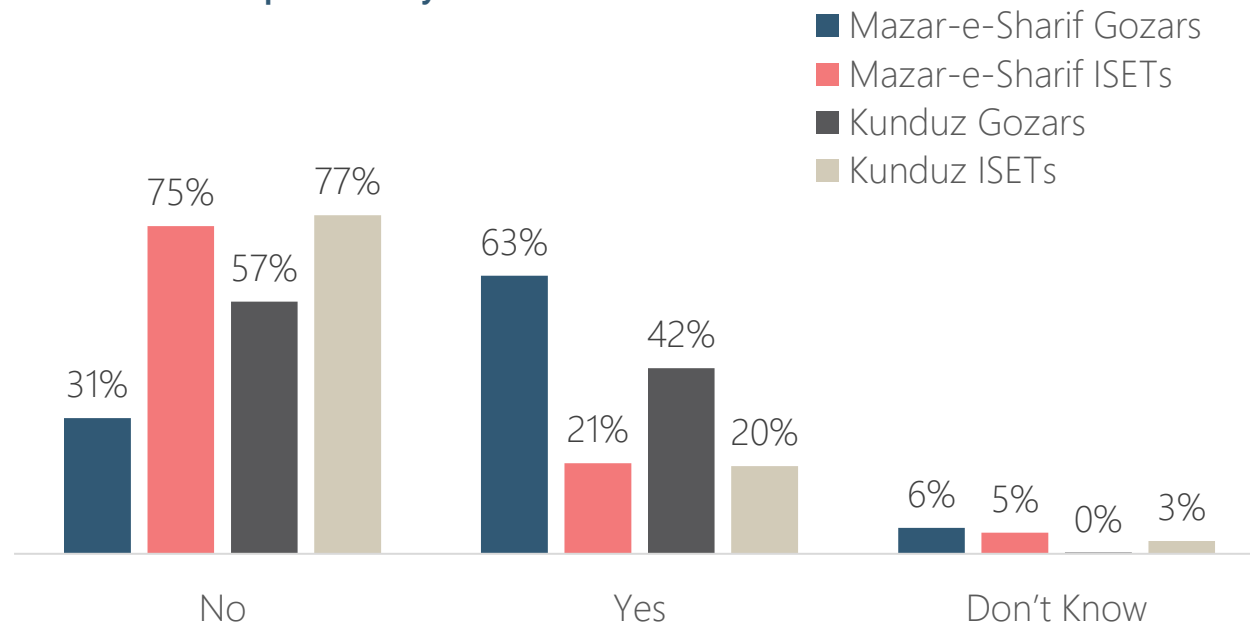


**Over 87%** of KIs reported lack of access to nutrition treatment services in Kunduz for most host households (HHs) in Kunduz in the last three month prior to the data collection.

# Market Access

According to KIs, ISETs in both Mazar-e-Sharif and Kunduz cities comparatively had lower levels of food stocks in local markets. Along with financial constraint as the main barrier to access food items and lower access to sufficient food in general, KIs reported that ISET communities were more likely to experience higher levels of food insecurity than host communities (Gozars communities).

## Availability of adequate food stocks in the local market as reported by the % of KIs



Nearly all KIs reported that the main barrier for consumers accessing the food market was financial constraints.

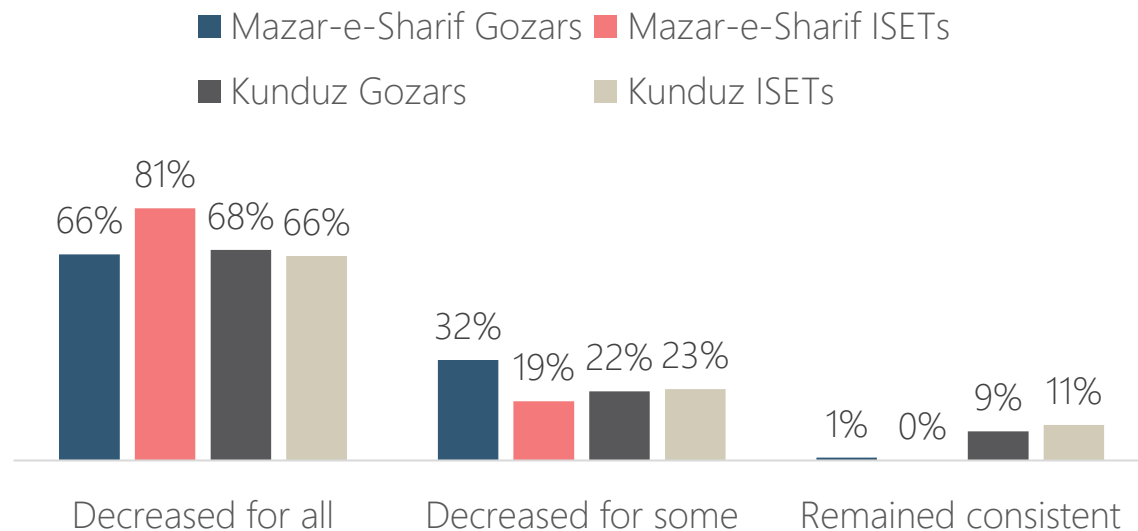
79% of KIs reported that ISETs in Mazar-e-Sharif had no functional food markets available, followed by 46% in Kunduz.



# Access to Employment and Income

The availability of work and income is reported to have decreased for all people in Mazar-e-Sharif and Kunduz. As most people rely on daily labour, this indicates that the availability of this already unstable income source is decreasing.

% of KIs reporting change in work for most residents  
in their ISET/Gozar in the last 3 months



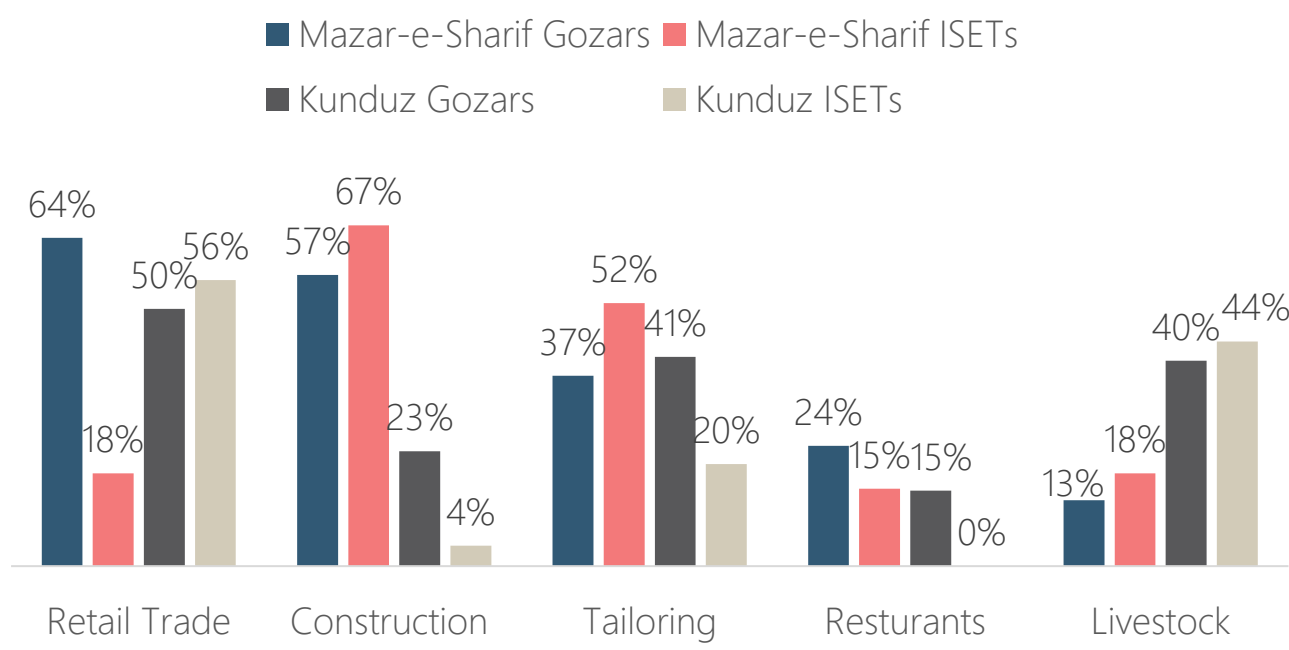
91% of KIs reported that the main source of income for households to have access to over the past 30 days was **daily labor**.

87% of KIs reported that most residents are **unemployed** because work is not available

# Sectors of Employment

Most people were engaged in retail work, primarily through street vending, followed by daily labor in construction. Women, who are prohibited from working<sup>1</sup>, often engage in tailoring at home, sewing clothes and traditional dresses. Additionally, many communities within ISETs are occupied with rearing cattle and livestock.

% of KIs by reported business sectors owned by the people in the ISET/Gozar



% of KIs reporting women cannot be employed in the Gozar or ISETs

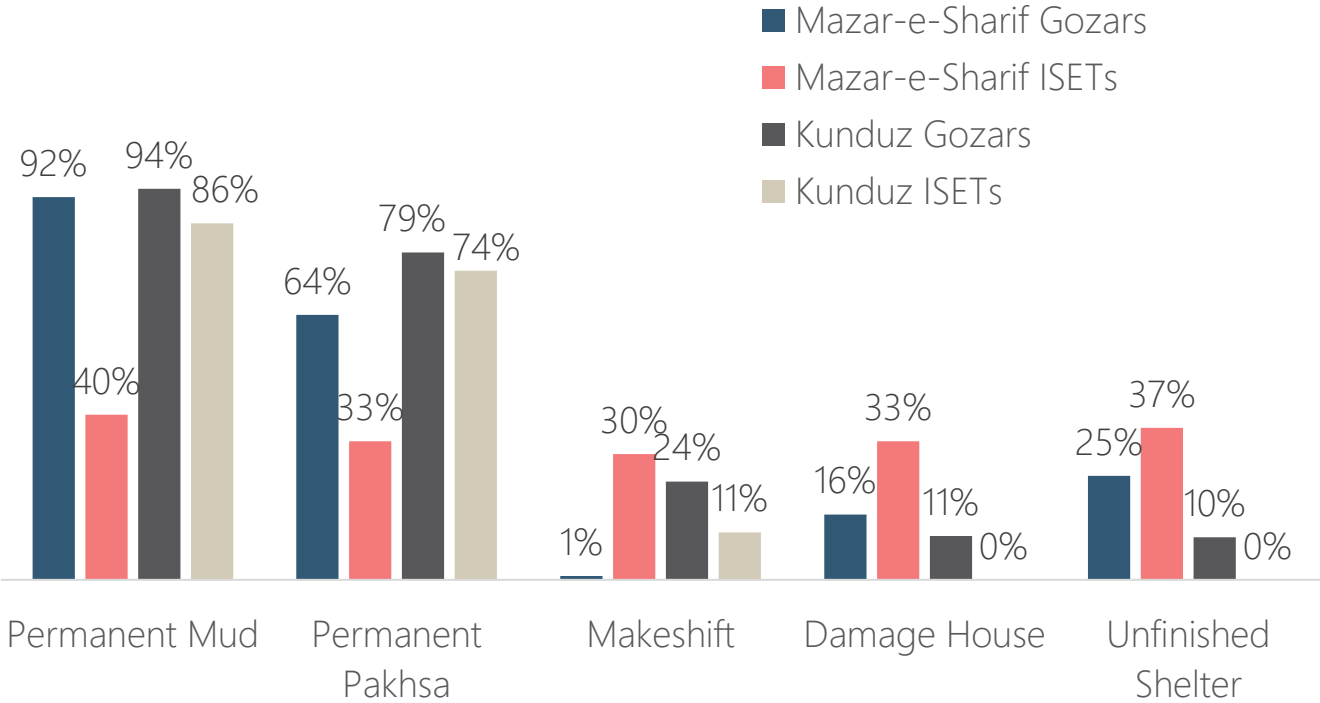
Mazar Gozar	Mazar ISETs	Kunduz Gozar	Kunduz ISETs
64%	59%	64%	34%

Despite more than half of Key Informants (KIs) reporting that women cannot be employed, many also reported that most women worked from home as tailors sewing local dresses and community clothes

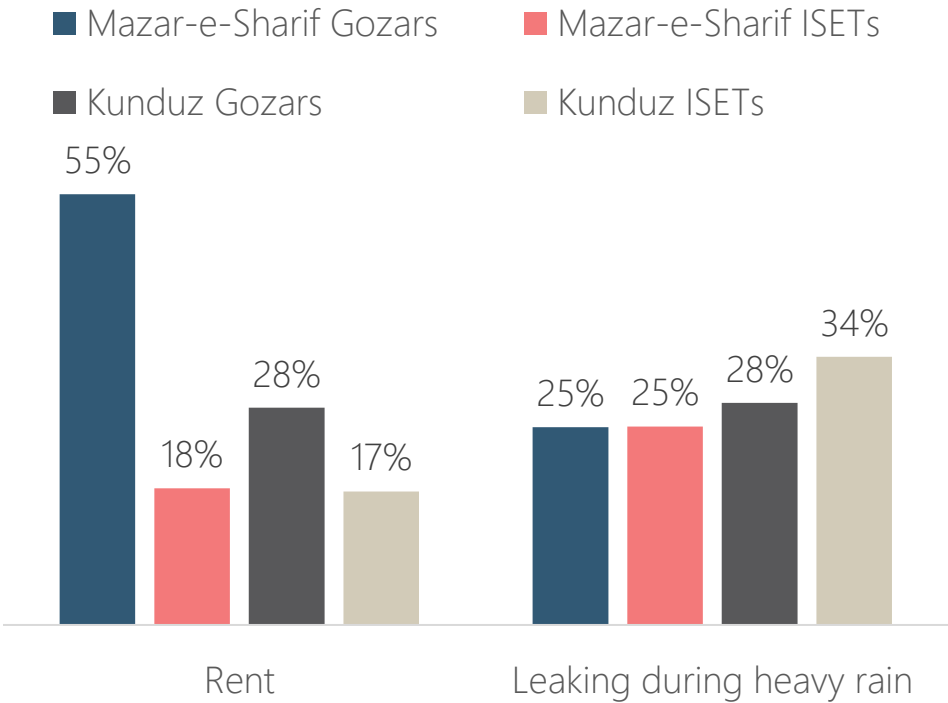
<sup>1</sup>. Last bans prohibited most of the women from working in public offices. More information available here: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/06/1137962>

# Shelter Types and Issues

% of KIs by reported types of shelters most ISET/Gozar residents (displaced and hosts) live in<sup>1</sup>



% of Key Informants (KIs) reporting the main shelter concerns in ISET/Gozar



<sup>1</sup> The respondent could select more than one choice, and the total sums may not necessarily add up to 100..

# Access to Healthcare

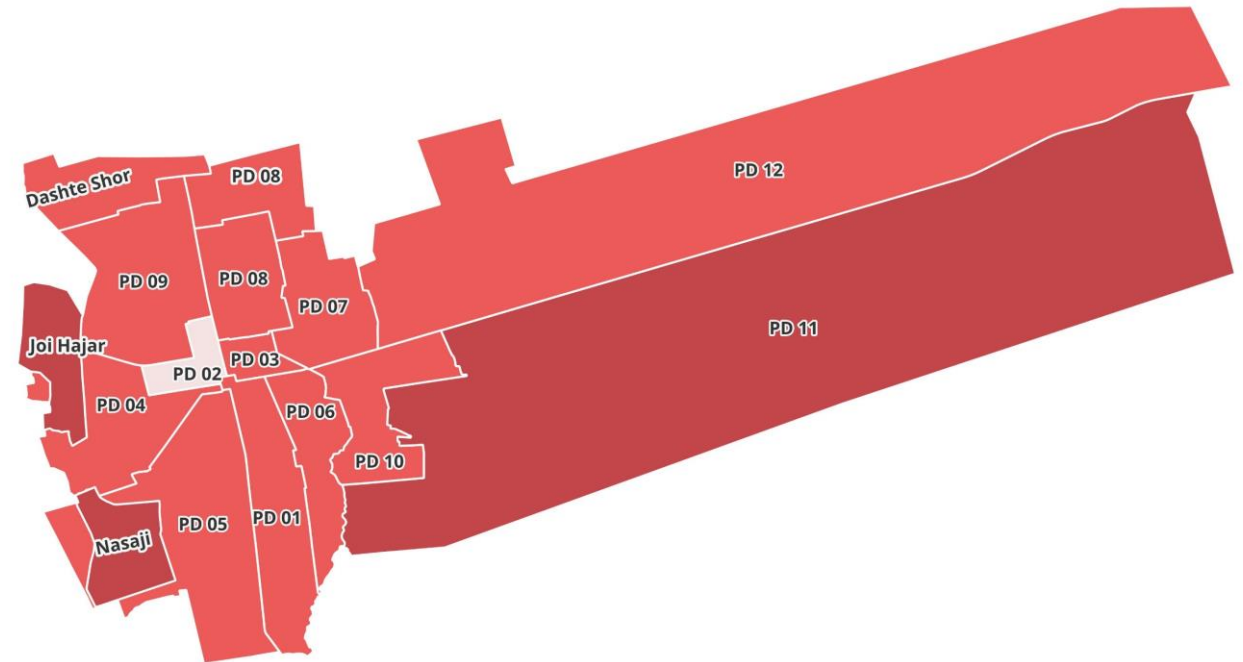


% of KIs in Mazar-e-Sharif city reporting lacking access to functional healthcare facilities in their neighbourhood

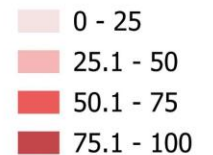
64% of KIs who reported the unavailability of functional healthcare facilities, were in Joi Hajar, Nasaji, and PD11.

Therefore, residents in these areas are required to travel to a nearby Nahiya to access healthcare services.

75% of the KIs reported access to primary care services, followed by pharmacy services (55%) in PD11, Joi Hajar and Nasaji.



0 3 6 km



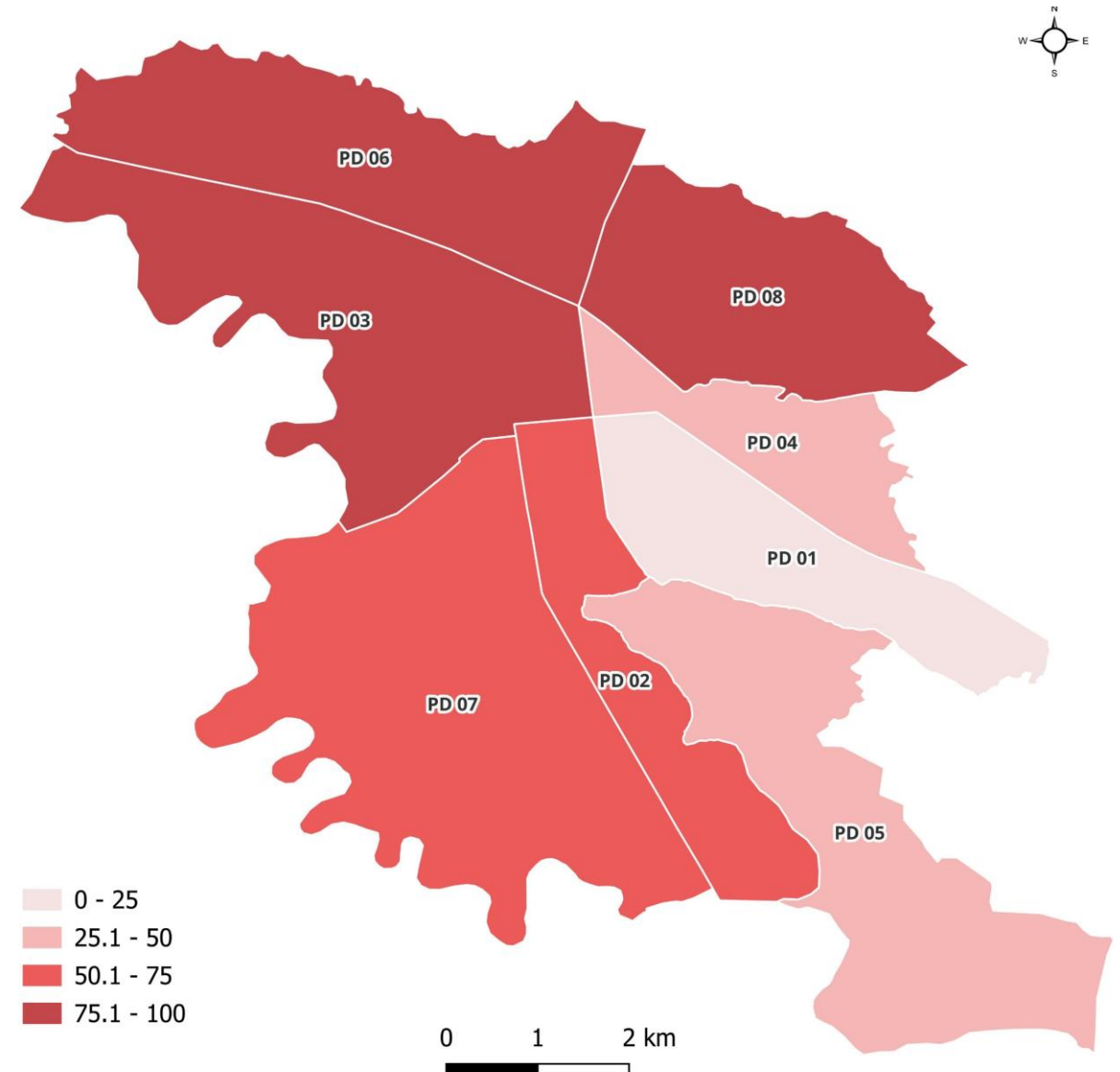
The above map does not reflect an equal distribution of severity. Compared with the other PDs, PD2 has a higher concentration of health centres and due its larger population, more KIs were conducted there.

# Access to Healthcare

66% of KIs who reported the unavailability of functional healthcare facilities identified specific areas in Kunduz city, including Nahiya 6, 8, and Nahiya 3.

Most healthcare services reported were pharmacy services 86% .

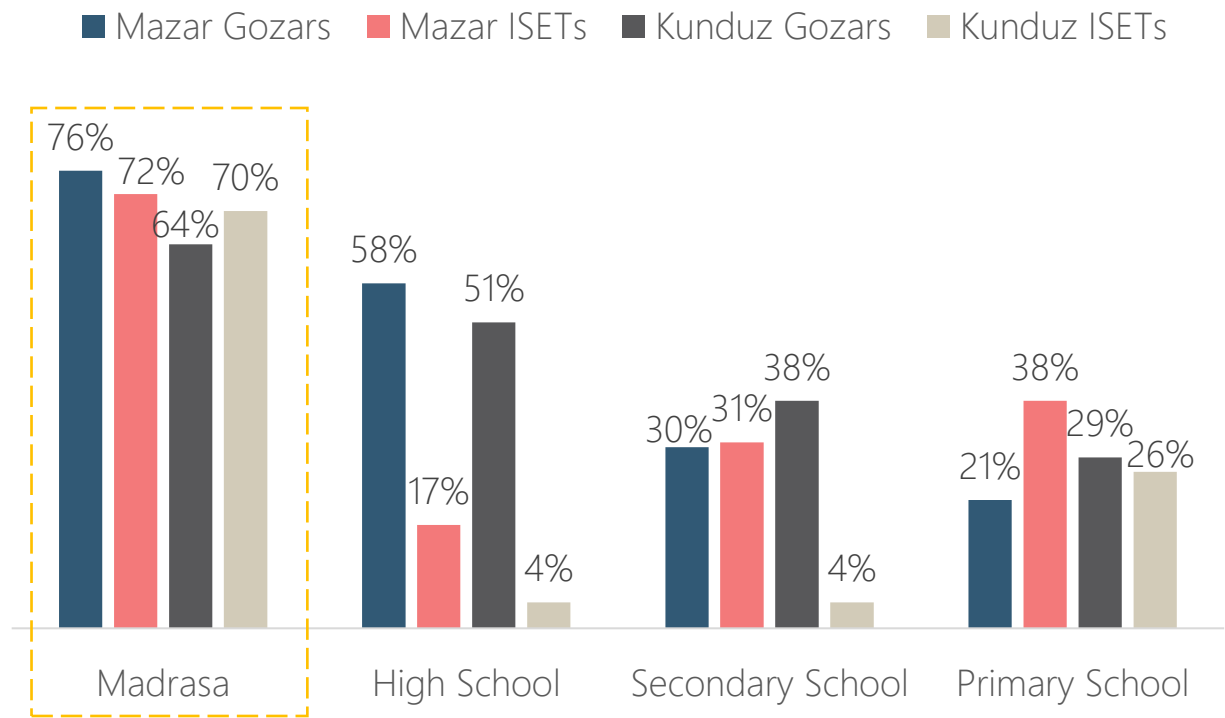
% of KIs in Kunduz city reporting lacking access to functional healthcare facilities in their neighbourhood



# Access to Education

**4%** of KIs reported the availability of universities in ISETs and Gozars. Meanwhile, Madrasa<sup>1</sup> is emerging as a prominent alternative to formal education.

% of KIs Reporting Types of Educational Centers Available in Gozar/ISET



Boys School Barriers by Reported % of KIs

	Mazar-e-Sharif Gozar	Mazar-e-Sharif ISETs	Kunduz Gozar	Kunduz SETs
Not Functioning	38%	32%	33%	11%
Earn Money	21%	18%	8%	0%
Too Far	16%	29%	16%	6%
No School at place	13%	41%	24%	60%



Girls School Barriers by Reported % of KIs

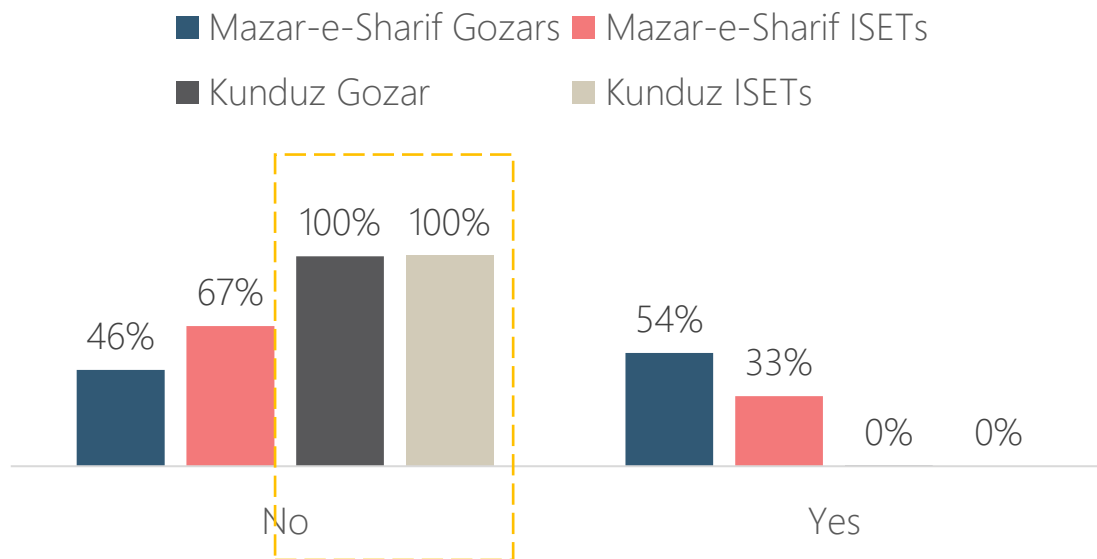
	Mazar-e-Sharif Gozar	Mazar-e-Sharif ISETs	Kunduz Gozar	Kunduz ISETs
Education Bans	80%	43%	57%	17%
Not Functioning	32%	18%	23%	6%
New Restriction	13%	5%	32%	9%
No School at place	12%	46%	24%	60%

<sup>1</sup>. More information available here: <https://msmagazine.com/2024/01/12/afghanistan-taliban-women-girls-education-madrassa-religious-schools/>

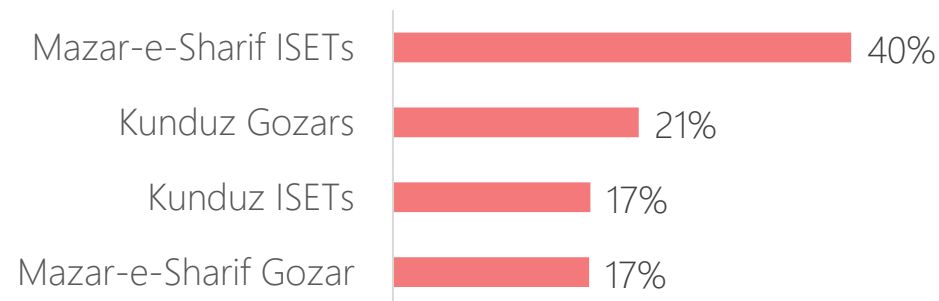
# Protection

All communities in Kunduz reportedly have no access to GBV services. Communities within ISETs in Mazar-e-Sharif reported higher proportions of child marriages. Addressing the need for greater protection services will be critical to ensuring vulnerable populations are protected across both cities.

% of KIs reporting the availability of any service to address discrimination and gender based violences



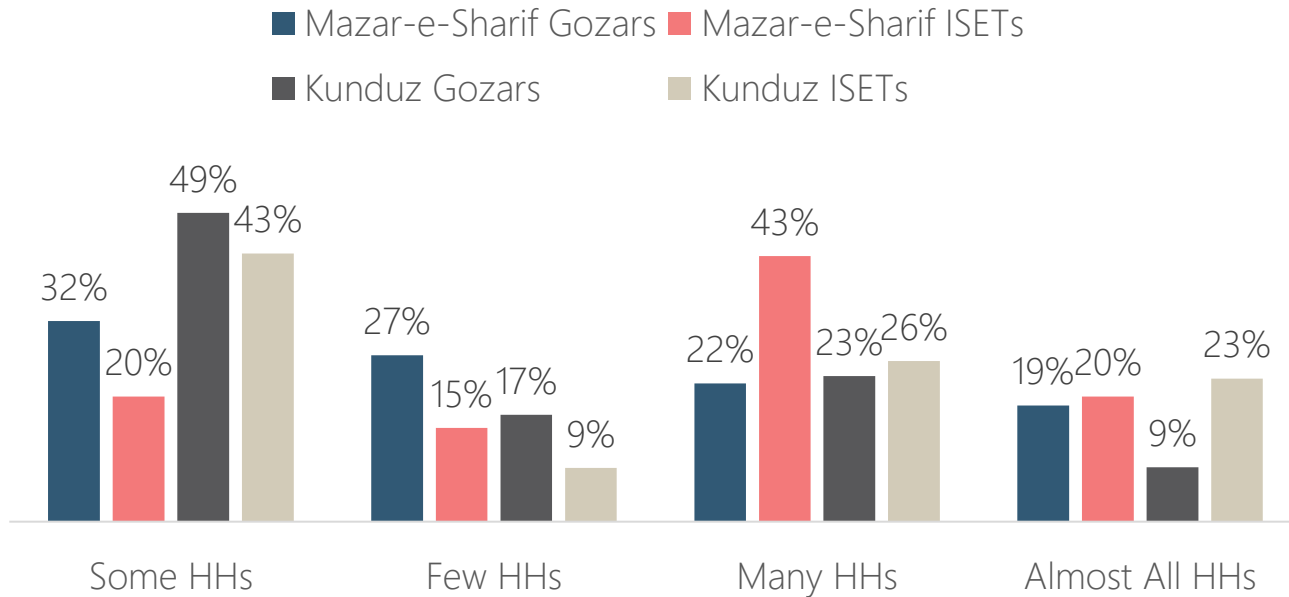
% of KIs reporting being aware of boys and girls (17 years or younger) getting married in the last three months in Gozar/ISET



90% of KIs in Kunduz reported that unsafe areas for women and girls are recreational spaces.

# Access to drinking water

% of KIs by reported access of HHs to safe drinking water within 500 meters of their home in their Gozar/ISETs



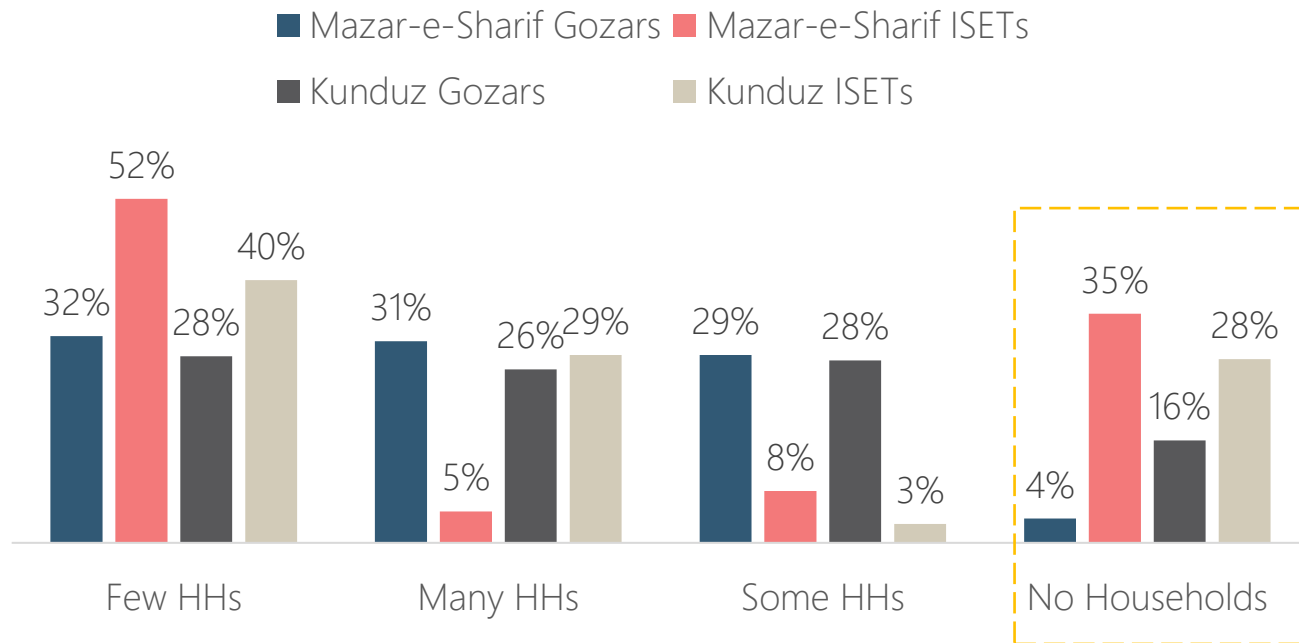
**43%** of KIs in Mazar-e-Sharif and  
**60%** of KIs in Kunduz reported that the water quality is poor



# Sanitation and Hygiene

ISETs in both Kunduz and Mazar-e-Sharif cities comparatively have less access to functioning hand-washing facilities. Compounded with poor access to healthcare centres, this could make ISETs residents more vulnerable to public health-related issues.

% of KIs reporting of households with access to functioning hand-washing facilities with water and soap in ISET/Gozar



% of KIs that reported no waste management service available in the ISET/Gozar.

- 28% in Mazar
- 45% in Kunduz

% of KIs reported that most of the showers and bathing facilities in every ISET/Gozar were private.

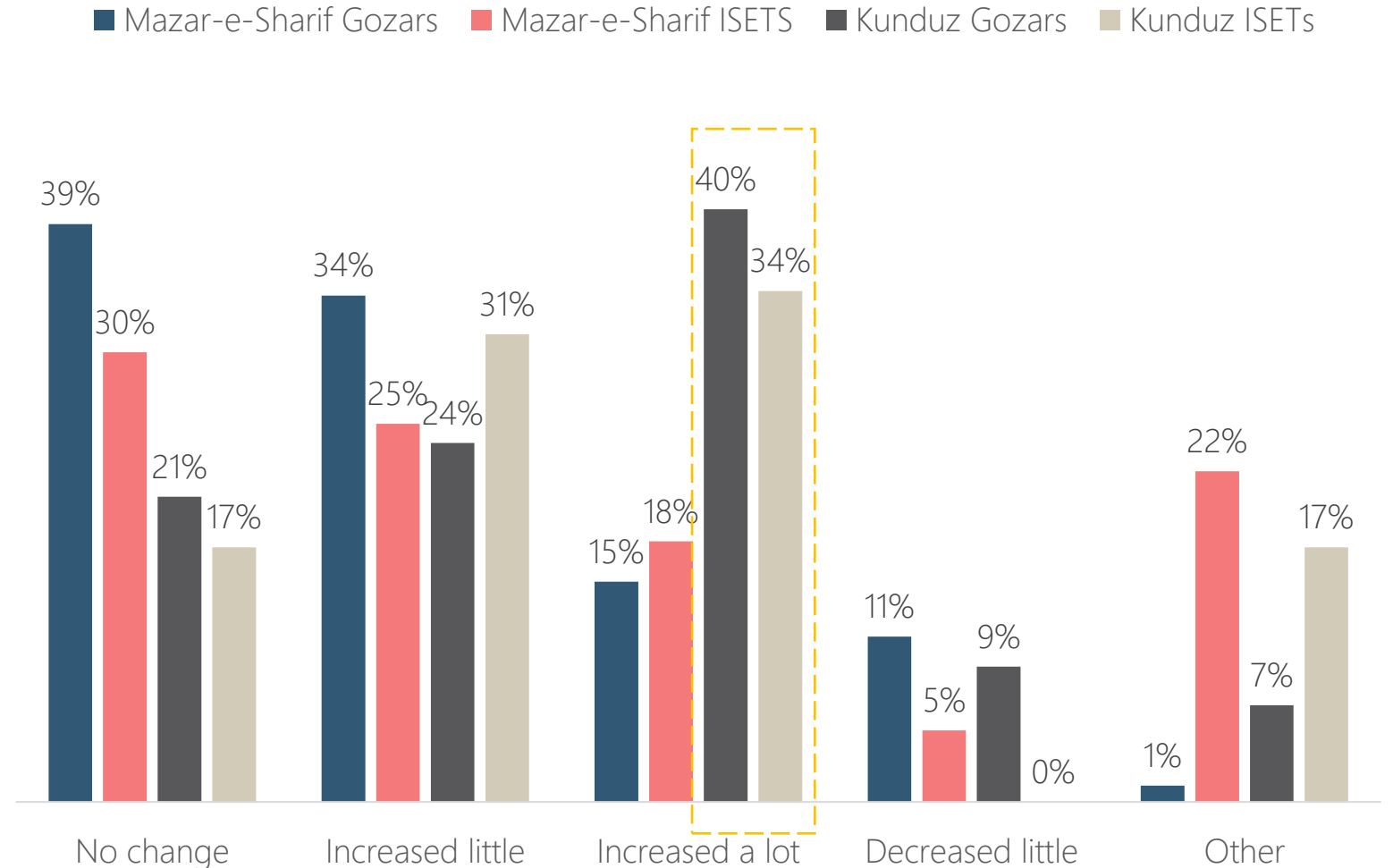
- 90% in Mazar
- 80% in Kunduz

# Access to NFI

% of Key Informants reporting on price changes on NFIs for most residents in the past 30 Days prior to the survey in ISET/Gozar

% of KIs reporting that market prices were the main barrier for consumers in accessing the NFI market, with a particular emphasis on the high cost of energy for heating:

**91%** Mazar-e-Sharif Gozars  
**70%** Mazar-e-Sharif ISETs  
**91%** Kunduz Gozars  
**77%** Kunduz ISETs

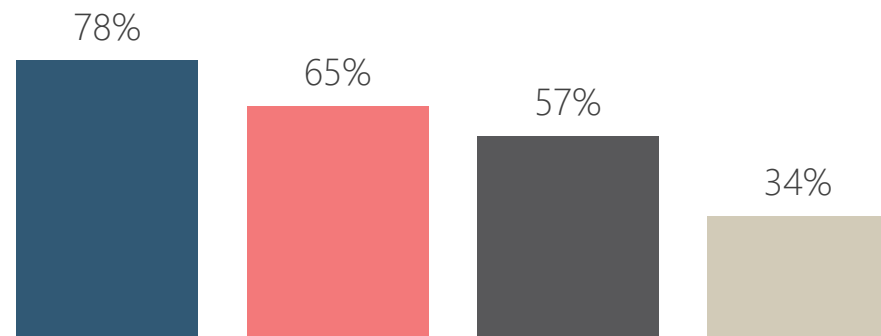


# Stakeholder mapping

Despite, the ISET communities had less integration in Mazar-e-Sharif, there were also reportedly low tensions between host and ISET communities in Mazar-e-Sharif as well as Kunduz city. This was reflected by high rates of IDP inclusion in leadership structures. Women however reportedly remained more excluded from these structures in Kunduz, with more inclusion in Mazar-e-Sharif.

## Most reported types of selection for local leadership structures in their ISETs/Goza as reported by % of KIs

■ Mazar-e-Sharif Gozars ■ Mazar-e-Sharif ISETs ■ Kunduz Gozars ■ Kunduz ISETs



Elected by all community

54% in Mazar-e-Sharif

71% in Kunduz city

Of KIs reporting that women have **no** representation and are not included in the community leadership structures.

Over 85% of KIs reporting the **inclusion** and representation of IDPs in the **committee leadership structures**

A light gray world map is centered in the background. Overlaid on the map is a complex, light gray geometric pattern consisting of numerous interconnected triangles of varying sizes, creating a mesh-like effect across the entire slide.

04

# Key Findings MFGDs

# Demographics

## Mazar-e-Sharif City Demographics

Approximate % of HHs, by gozar/ISET		
Gozars		ISETs
69%	Host	14%
3%	Recent IDPs	5%
5%	Prolonged IDPs	8%
7%	Protracted IDPs	35%
1%	Cross border returnees	2%
0%	Refugees	1%
3%	Returnees	2%
4%	Migrants	24%
0%	Nomads	0%
5%	Women-headed HHs	5%
3%	Child-Headed HHs	4%

The number of cross-border returnees was low at the time of data collection in July 2023 – it has likely increased since then due to repatriations from Pakistan.

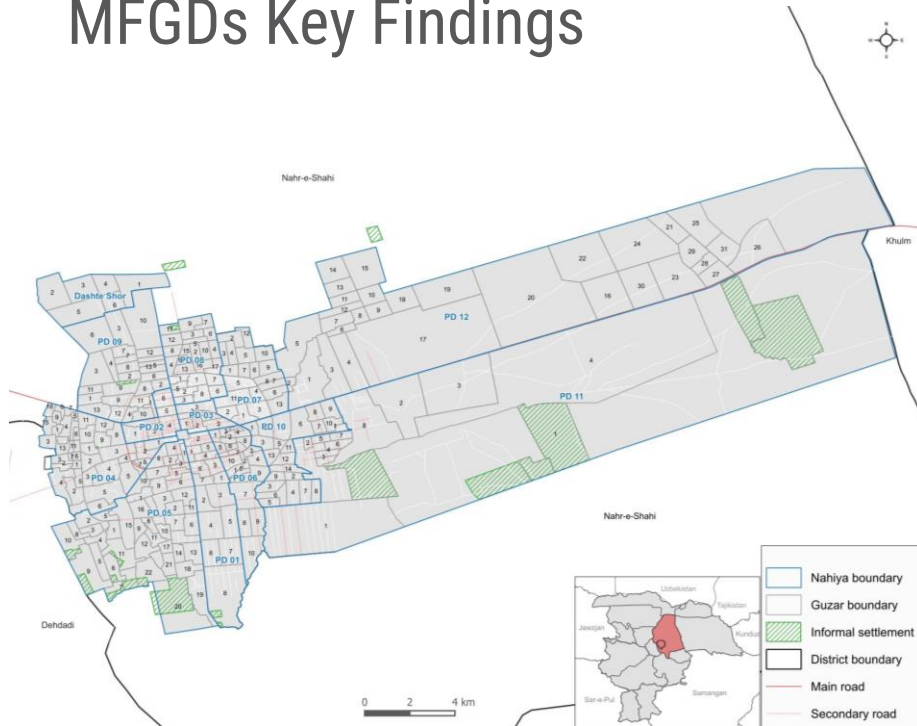
## Kunduz City Demographics

Approximate % of HHs, by gozar/ISET		
Gozars		ISETs
57%	Host	17%
8%	Recent IDPs	7%
7%	Prolonged IDPs	13%
7%	Protracted IDPs	34%
2%	Cross border returnees	5%
1%	Refugees	0%
7%	Returnees	10%
5%	Migrants	4%
0%	Nomads	0%
4%	Women-headed HHs	6%
2%	Child-Headed HHs	4%

Both cities have a high number of protracted internally displaced persons (IDPs), with Kunduz also having a significant number of Returnees.

# Mazar-e-Sharif City

## MFGDs Key Findings



High unemployment rates and both legal and illegal immigration were key reported drivers of vulnerability, leading to deteriorating economic conditions that affect both Host and ISETs communities.



Both ISETs and Host communities consider Gozars to be fully urban areas within the city, administered by the municipality.



Both ISETs and Host communities have reported a lack of access to community centers for providing essential services to the local population.



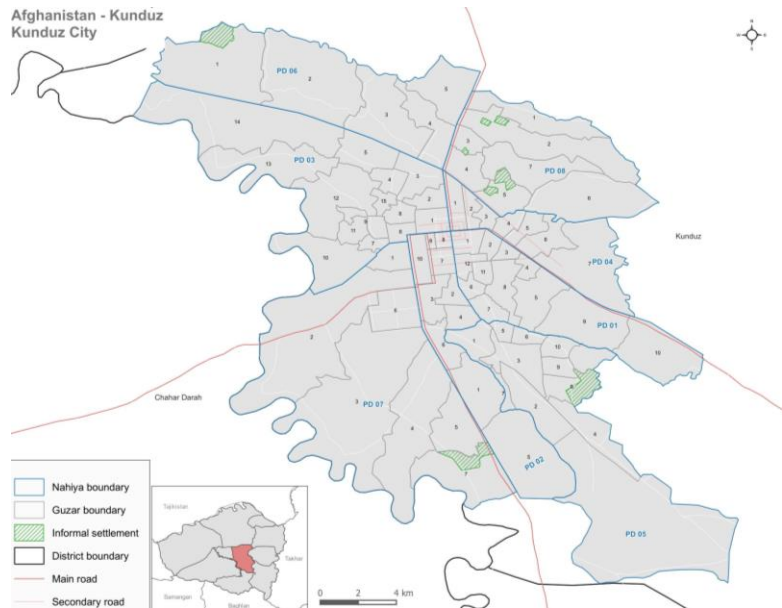
Most groups reported that they are considering ISETs are parts of the Gozar as they reside within the same Gozars, utilize the resources of Gozar communities, and share a unified leadership structure.



ISETs communities lack adequate access to essential services, such as safe drinking water, health centers, and educational facilities.

# Kunduz city

## MFGDs Key Findings



Almost all groups reported that they are considering ISETs are parts of the Gozar as they reside within the same Gozars, utilize the resources of Gozar communities, and share a unified leadership structure.



Barriers to accessing water noted in ISETs include dried-up wells, long distances, and women needing a mahram.



Economic and public health factors are key drivers of vulnerability of ISETs. These include unemployment, poverty, and a lack of public health facilities.



Woman in PD1 noted that *“there is a lack of income for some families that are headed by children and women, and they cannot afford food and other expenses. And those families whose lives were previously financially good, in this situation are not able to provide food.”*

A light gray world map is centered in the background, overlaid with a complex, low-poly geometric pattern of thin gray lines. The map shows the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The number '05' is positioned above the word 'Conclusions'.

05

# Conclusions



# Mazar-e-Sharif City



ISSET communities were reported to have less access to sufficient food than gozars, with lower levels of adequate food stocks in markets. The majority of KIs also reported that ISSETs have no functioning food markets available, indicating vulnerability to higher severity of food insecurity.



Employment has reportedly decreased for all communities, with a higher proportion of KIs reporting this for ISSETs than gozars. As daily labour is the main source of income and is unstable, this has the potential to result in cross-cutting vulnerabilities across all sectors.



While poor water quality was reported to be a problem for all communities, ISSETs reportedly have significantly less access to functioning hand washing facilities.



In consideration with lack of access to affordable healthcare facilities, ISSETs were reportedly more vulnerable to public health-related issues.



A higher proportion of KIs in Mazar ISSETs compared with other communities reported being aware of underage marriages. This might indicate severe protection concerns in these communities.



ISSETs reportedly had low levels of integration but high levels of representation in local leadership structures.

# Kunduz city



Almost half of KIs reported that there were no functional food markets available in ISETs.



Poor quality of drinking water was reported by KIs in both ISET and gozar communities. ISET communities had less access to functioning sanitation and hygiene facilities.



More than half of KIs reported the unavailability of functional healthcare facilities.



KIs in both ISETs and Gozar KIs reported similar concerns about shelter types, emphasizing weak structures, roof leakage in heavy rain, and rent affordability.



There were reportedly no services available to address discrimination or gender-based violence, which could pose protection concerns across all of Kunduz city.



While almost half of KIs reported that ISETs are integrated with gozars, less than half reported that local leadership is elected by all community members, and the majority reported that women have no representation.

# Thank you for your attention



[Marta.lopez-sole@impact-initiatives.org](mailto:Marta.lopez-sole@impact-initiatives.org)

[abdul.jalal@reach-initiative.org](mailto:abdul.jalal@reach-initiative.org)



**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action