Research Terms of Reference
Earthquake Post-Distribution Monitoring Assessment
AFG2309
Afghanistan

September 2023
V.1.1

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

1. Executive Summary

Country of intervention	Afghanistan					
Type of Emergency	X	**Natural disaster**	□	Conflict	□	Other *(specify)*
Type of Crisis	□	Sudden onset	□	Slow onset		
Mandating Body/ Agency	*United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)/ Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) cluster*					
IMPACT Project Code	02AZR					
Overall Research Timeframe *(from research design to final outputs / M&E)*	01/08/2023 to 31/12/2023					

Research Timeframe *Add planned deadlines (for first cycle if more than 1)*	1. Pilot/ training: 08/11/2023	6. Preliminary presentation: 28/12/2023
	2. Start collect data: 12/11/2023	7. Outputs sent for validation: 08/01/2024
	3. Data collected: 30/11/2023	8. Outputs published: 28/12/2012
	4. Data analysed: 10/12/2023	
	5. Data sent for validation: 11/12/2023	

Number of assessments	X	Single assessment (one cycle)
	□	Multi assessment (more than one cycle)
		[Describe here the frequency of the cycle]

Humanitarian milestones *Specify **what** will the assessment inform and **when*** *e.g. The shelter cluster will use this data to draft its Revised Flash Appeal;*	**Milestone**		**Deadline**
	□	Donor plan/strategy	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _
	□	Inter-cluster plan/strategy	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _
	X	**Cluster plan/strategy**	**UNHCR / ES/NFI cluster will use this data to inform the strategy and future programmatic response**
	□	NGO platform plan/strategy	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _
	□	Other (Specify):	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _

Audience Type & Dissemination *Specify **who** will the assessment inform and **how** you will disseminate to inform the audience*	**Audience type**	**Dissemination**
	□ Strategic	□ General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors)
	X Programmatic	
	X Operational	**X Cluster Mailing (ES/NFI) and presentation of findings at the next cluster meeting**
	□ [Other, Specify]	**X Presentation of findings (e.g. at cluster meeting)**

				X Website Dissemination (Relief Web & REACH Resource Centre)]		
Detailed dissemination plan required	X	Yes		□	No	
General Objective	In coordination with the ES/NFI cluster, REACH will conduct a post-distribution monitoring assessment approximately one year after the June 2022 earthquake that struck Paktika, Paktia, and Khost. This assessment will cover 6 districts across Paktika, and Khost, aiming to understand the effectiveness of the various shelter assistance modalities that were delivered as part of the coordinated humanitarian response and develop some best practices in disaster response. Doing so will inform UNHCR and the ES/NFI cluster's implementation of various shelter assistance modalities as part of the response as well as practices and preparedness for future emergencies.					
Specific Objective(s)	1. Monitor the overall beneficiary satisfaction and use of the shelter and NFI support provided by the ES/NFI cluster's programmes in response to the June 2022 earthquake. 2. Improve the overall disaster response practices of the ES/NFI cluster and its partners by identifying best practices based on the June 2022 earthquake response.					
Research Questions	1. What are the demographic profile and overall shelter needs of ES/NFI beneficiaries that have been assisted by ES/NFI cluster partners as part of the June 2022 earthquake response? 2. What is the overall satisfaction and long-term impact of ES/NFI assistance provided by ES/NFI partners in affected regions and how was the assistance used by beneficiaries? 3. What were the successes and challenges in implementing the earthquake response, and what are the best practices for future disaster-responses?					
Geographic Coverage	6 districts across 2 provinces: Shamal (Khost), Tani (Khost) , Spera (Khost), Barmal (Paktika), Giyan (Paktika), and Ziruk (Paktika).					
Secondary Data Sources	UNOCHA, Afghanistan: Humanitarian Needs Overview, January 2023 UNOCHA, Afghanistan: Earthquake Response Situation Report No. 4, October 2022 UNHCR, Afghanistan: PDM for Emergency Shelter, June 2019 UNHCR, Afghanistan External Earthquake Update #4 – 7 August 2022 ES/NFI, Afghanistan: Post Distribution Monitoring Form, July 2022 Global Shelter Cluster Information Management and Assessment Toolkit REACH, Afghanistan: Paktika Earthquake Damage Assessment, July 2022 REACH, Afghanistan: Earthquake Damage Assessment Khost, Paktika, Paktya Provinces Afghanistan, July 2022 REACH, Afghanistan: ES/NFI Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Assessment, January 2023 REACH, Afghanistan: Rapid Assessment Mechanism (RAM), May 2022 REACH, Afghanistan: Khost Earthquake Damage Assessment, July 2022 Dataset					

Population(s)	□	IDPs in camp		X	**IDPs in informal sites**	
Select all that apply	X	**IDPs in host communities**		X	**IDPs** [Other, Specify]	
	□	Refugees in camp		X	**Refugees in informal sites**	
	X	**Refugees in host communities**		□	Refugees [Other, Specify]	
	X	**Host communities**		X	**Returnees**	
Stratification	X	Geographical #: 6 districts: Shamal (Khost), Tani (Khost)	□	**Group #:** IDPs, returnees, refugees,		X	*[Aid Modality* #: 7

Select type(s) and enter number of strata	, Spera (Khost), Barmal (Paktika), Giyan (Paktika), and Ziruk (Paktika). Population size per strata is known? **X** Yes □ No		and non-displaced (host) Population size per strata is known? □ Yes **X** No		1) Cash-based shelter response 2) Cash-based NFI response 3) In-kind shelter response 4) In-kind NFI response 5) Multi-purpose cash 6) Dignity kit 7) Mixed Modality Population size per strata is known? **X Yes** □ No

Data collection tool(s)	**X**	[Structured (Quantitative)](#)	**X**	[Semi-structured (Qualitative)](#)
	Sampling method		**Data collection method**	

Structured data collection tool # 1 *Select sampling and data collection method and specify target # interviews*	**X Purposive (for qualitative)** □ Probability / Simple random **X Probability / Stratified simple random (for quantitative)** □ Probability / Cluster sampling □ Probability / Stratified cluster sampling □ [Other, Specify]	**X Key informant interview (Target #): 10 to 15** □ Group discussion (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ **X Household interview (Target #): 1,128** □ Individual interview (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ □ Direct observations (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ □ [Other, Specify] (Target #):_ _ _ _ _
Target level of precision if probability sampling	**95 %** level of confidence	**7+/- %** margin of error

Data management platform(s)	**X**	**REACH**		□	UNHCR	
	□	[Other, Specify]				

Expected ouput type(s)	□	Situation overview #: _ _	□	Report #: _ _	□	Profile #: _ _
	□	Presentation (Preliminary findings) #: _ _	**X**	**Presentation #: 01**	**X**	**Factsheet #: 01**
	□	Interactive dashboard #:_	□	Webmap #: _ _	□	Map #: _ _
	X	[Quantitative Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Kobo Tool](#) **#: 01**				
	X	[Qualitative Key Informant Tool](#) **#: 01**				
	X	**Cleaned Dataset #: 01**				
	X	**Tabulated Analysis #: 01**				
	X	**Key Findings Note #: 01**				

Access	**X**	Public (available on REACH resource center and other humanitarian platforms)
	□	Restricted (bilateral dissemination only upon agreed dissemination list, no publication on REACH or other platforms)
	REACH, ES/NFI cluster	
	Donor: UNHCR	

Visibility *Specify which logos should be on outputs*	***Coordination Framework: ES/NFI cluster System***
	***Partners:** N/A*

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

Despite a reduction in active conflict following the change of authorities in August 2021, Afghanistan remains one of the most complex humanitarian crisis in the world. Following over 40 years of conflict across the country, recurrent natural disasters, and endemic economic structural challenges, much of the population faces a lack of key services and challenges to meet their basic needs. According to the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), 28.3 million people are projected to be in humanitarian need, up from 18.4 million people just before the change in authorities, at the start of 2021. The number of people in need of Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) has similarly increased since then, with 29% of the rural population considered to be facing extreme needs in 2023.[1] This is critical, particularly in the extreme Afghan winters, in which many households struggle to have sufficient heating.

According to the Whole of Afghanistan Assessment 2022,[2] endemic poverty and decades of conflict have converged with COVID-19, natural disasters, and political developments to generate desperate needs and vulnerabilities, with drought and economic shocks as the most frequently reported shocks by households. Households from all population groups continue to prioritize food, which remains the foremost reported need, followed by livelihoods and healthcare, although variations exist across population groups. For example, shelter needs are the highest for Internally Displaced People (IDP) and refugees (46% and 48% respectively). Additionally, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) report, there were more than four hundred and thirty thousand individuals who came into Afghanistan from neighbouring countries between December 2022 and March 2023.[3]

In addition to responding to needs in both areas of displacement and areas of origin and return, the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan has led to an increase in emergency needs, requiring a response in both areas of displacement, such as ISETs, and areas of origin and return, as identified by the Co-PROSPER programme. Whilst the specific type and nature of needs may differ by status and geography, ES/NFI assistance needs were found to be high across the country, with 9.7 million people in need in 2023, including 690,800 new IDPs and 1.1 million new returnees.[4] The 2023 HNO report found that of these 9.7 million people with emergency shelter needs, 71% of rural households and 85% of urban households were in severe need of ES/NFI support, while the remaining 29% of rural households and 12% of urban households were in extreme need. The most recent REACH Whole of Afghanistan Assessment 2022 reflected these concerns, with 82% of IDP households and 77% of non-displaced households in severe need or greater of shelter assistance, and 64% of IDP households and 61% of non-displaced households in severe need or greater of NFI assistance. A further 79% of households reported inadequate heating and 7% reported living in inadequate shelters.[5] Along with other multi-sectoral needs, ES/NFI is likely to remain a critical component of the response for the coming years.

Natural disasters and sudden-onset shocks continue to compound the effects of the above needs. Following the June 2022 earthquake that struck Paktika, Paktya, and Khost, an IOM joint assessment found that of the affected households (over 100,000 people), 33% required reconstruction as they had been destroyed, 57% were repairable, and only 10% of undercover living spaces were still habitable.[6] As per OCHA's latest Earthquake Response Situation Report, 14,777 houses were affected by the earthquake in 9 districts (Shamal, Tani, Spera, Barmal, Giyan, Neka, Urgun, Ziruk and Waza Zadran) across 3 provinces (Khost, Paktika and Paktya) and the response is expected to reach 100,000 beneficiaries.

Given the above needs in the context of shocks, the importance of coordination between ES/NFI partners to correctly target and prioritize assistance is critical, particularly when considering the planned reach of the cluster. In order to do this, REACH

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[1] OCHA, Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023
[2] REACH, Annual Whole of Afghanistan Assessment 2022, October 2022
[3] IOM, Afghanistan — Movement in and out of Afghanistan Snapshot (1-31 Mar 2023)
[4] UNOCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview: Afghanistan, January 2023
[5] REACH, Whole of Afghanistan Assessment: Key Sectoral Findings Factsheet, October 2022
[6] UNOCHA, Afghanistan: Earthquake Response Situation Report No. 4, October 2022

will conduct a Post-Distribution Monitoring assessment covering beneficiaries targeted by and responded to by ES/NFI cluster partners for intervention. The PDM conducted by REACH will attempt to capture a representative snapshot from the beneficiaries for the ES/NFI interventions and will be done at a 95% confidence and 7% margin of error, with 1,128 household interviews drawn from a beneficiary list shared by partners. Households will be interviewed approximately a year after the beginning of the humanitarian response.

2.2 Intended Impact

Building on experience in conducting both in-depth data collection exercises across the country within larger data management frameworks, as well as previous assessments for the ES/NFI cluster, this project will provide information management support to the ES/NFI cluster and REACH's broader scope of work in Afghanistan with the intended impact of improving the integration of data driven approaches in UNHCR and the ES/NFI cluster's regular annual programming. Doing so will help to inform strategic, programmatic, and operational priorities in Afghanistan. Specifically, the PDM assessment will improve the understanding of the effectiveness of the various shelter assistance modalities that were delivered as part of the coordinated humanitarian response and assess successes and challenges to develop some best practices for future disaster response.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology Overview

A quantitative and qualitative methodology will be applied for PDM in 6 districts across 2 provinces in Afghanistan. It will include the following:

a) An extensive secondary data review will be done to understand the situation.
b) Appropriate quantitative and qualitative tools will be developed for this PDM cycle. The quantitative component will involve an independent, population-representative assessment of the ES/NFI earthquake response. The qualitative component will involve KIIs with humanitarian professionals involved in the earthquake response.
c) REACH will conduct PDM in 6 districts using beneficiary data shared by the ES/NFI cluster and stratified across the cluster's seven main modalities of assistance: 1) Cash-based shelter response, 2) Cash-based NFI response, 3) In-kind shelter response, 4) In-kind NFI response, and 5) Mixed Modality, 6) Multi-purpose Cash, and 7) Dignity kit.

3.2 Population of interest

The PDM includes the households who received assistance from ES/NFI cluster partners in the aftermath of the June 2022 earthquake-affected households in Paktika, and Khost. REACH will collect the beneficiary households' information from all ES/NFI cluster partners which is expected to include about 8,300 beneficiaries. The beneficiary information consists of seven types of assistance which are 1) Cash-based shelter response, 2) Cash-based NFI response, 3) In-kind shelter response, 4) In-kind NFI response, and 5) Mixed Modality, 6) Multi-purpose Cash, and 7) Dignity kit. The information on the population and calculated sample sizes are presented in the table below:

Population / Sample	Cash-based shelter response	Cash-based NFI response	In-kind shelter response	In-kind NFI response	Mixed Modality	Dignity kit	Multi-purpose Cash	Total
Population	2581	1,452	437	488	1,432	1,200	798	**8388**
Sample	182	173	135	140	173	168	157	**1,128**

3.3 Secondary data review

REACH will review humanitarian reports and check PDM tools used by REACH and ES/NFI cluster in Afghanistan as a basis for the development of a harmonized PDM tool. To understand each above-mentioned modality of intervention of assistance, a comprehensive secondary data review will be conducted.

Table 1: Data sources for secondary data review.

Source	Document
UNOCHA	UNOCHA, Afghanistan: Humanitarian Needs Overview, January 2023
UNOCHA	UNOCHA, Afghanistan: Earthquake Response Situation Report No. 4, October 2022
UNHCR	UNHCR, Afghanistan: PDM for Emergency Shelter, June 2019
UNHCR	UNHCR, Afghanistan: External Earthquake Update #4 – 7 August 2022
ES/NFI	ES/NFI, Afghanistan: Post Distribution Monitoring Form, July 2022
Global Shelter Cluster	Global Shelter Cluster Information Management and Assessment Toolkit
REACH	REACH, Afghanistan: Paktika Earthquake Damage Assessment, July 2022
REACH	REACH, Afghanistan: Earthquake Damage Assessment Khost, Paktika, Paktya Provinces Afghanistan, July 2022
REACH	REACH, Afghanistan: ES/NFI Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Assessment, January 2023
REACH	REACH, Afghanistan: Rapid Assessment Mechanism (RAM), May 2022
REACH	REACH, Afghanistan: Khost Earthquake Damage Assessment, July 2022 Dataset

3.4 Primary Data Collection

Comprehensive and appropriate tools qualitative (1), and quantitative (1) will be developed as informed by the secondary data review. The tools to be adapted will address the 7 different modalities intended to assess: 1) Cash-based shelter response, 2) Cash-based NFI response, 3) In-kind shelter response, 4) In-kind NFI response, and 5) Mixed Modality, 6) Multi-purpose Cash, and 7) Dignity kit. The full research cycle will be coordinated by REACH from drafting the ToR, data collection, data cleaning, data analysis, and dissemination phase.

The tools after development will be reviewed and validated by the ES/NFI cluster and IMPACT headquarters. Once the tools are finalised, implementation of the nationwide PDM will be kicked off. Based on beneficiary lists provided by the ES/NFI cluster partners; for quantitative component a stratified random sampling will be adapted. Data will be representative at a 95% confidence level and a 7% margin of error. The qualitative component will involve 10 to 15 KI interviews with humanitarian professionals involved in the earthquake response. The tools will answer the following research questions:

1) What is the demographic profile and overall shelter needs of ES/NFI beneficiaries that have been assisted by ES/NFI cluster partners as part of the June 2022 earthquake response?
2) What is the overall satisfaction and long-term impact of ES/NFI aid provided by ES/NFI partners in affected regions and how was the aid used by beneficiaries?
3) What were the successes and challenges in implementing the earthquake response, and what are the best practices for future disaster-responses?

To generate the sampling frame, REACH's assessment team will work through the beneficiary lists of the ES/NFI cluster partners. These lists of beneficiaries will consist of households who received assistance in each modality of assistance by ES/NFI cluster partners after June 2022 earthquake. The assessment will use a quantitative data collection approach through a representative stratified random sample of the beneficiaries. The strata will be the modality of intervention, and the lists of beneficiaries within each of those modalities will be picked randomly. Interviews will be conducted remotely through telephone with beneficiaries having access to a telephone network and for the rest enumerators will visit beneficiaries house. The responses will be recorded digitally on smartphones using the Kobo Collect application via smartphones. No respondents younger than age 18 will be interviewed. An assortment of enumerators will be trained by REACH on how to conduct interviews with targeted beneficiaries. Training of enumerators will last for 2 days and includes half day for of the piloting of the quantitative tool.

Along with quantitative data collection, a qualitative KI tool will be developed to conduct 10 to 15 key informant interviews with humanitarian professionals involved in the earthquake response. The KII will be conducted remotely by the REACH assessment officers using Teams or Google Meet as per the convenience of the KII participants.

Based on collected PDM data, REACH will clean and process a dataset to develop a tabulated analysis based on quantitative assessment, a key findings note will be derived from a data saturation analysis grid based on qualitative assessment, and a factsheet will be developed combining both qualitative and quantitative findings. After endorsement by ES/NFI cluster and IMPACT HQ, the outputs will be published online in the REACH resource center. Those outputs will inform programmatic, and operational priorities of ES/NFI cluster and its partners' activities by answering the above research questions.

3.5 Data Processing & Analysis

The data collected by enumerators will be cleaned and analysed on daily basis by data and operation teams that will check for consistency, outliers, and logic in responses provided and will provide feedback to team leaders and enumerators for additional clarification according to IMPACT Data Cleaning Minimum Standards Checklist. Data will be stored on IMPACT Kobo accounts during data collection. The data analysis team will share anonymized raw and cleaned data along with the value cleaning log to IMPACT HQ for validation.

Quantitative data analysis will be done using coding in R. The findings from HH data collection will be disaggregated by assistance modality with a 95% confidence level and 7% margin of error, and will be aggregated at overall level.

Qualitative data will be processed and analyzed using a data saturation analysis grid (DSAG). This will be disaggregated according to the assistance modalities specified in the executive summary.

4. Key Ethical Considerations and Related Risks

The proposed research design meets / does not meet the following criteria:

The proposed research design…	Yes/ No	Details if no (including mitigation)
… Has been coordinated with relevant stakeholders to **avoid unnecessary duplication** of data collection efforts?	Yes	
… **Respects respondents, their rights and dignity** (*specifically by: seeking informed consent, designing length of survey/ discussion while being considerate of participants' time, ensuring accurate reporting of information provided*)?	Yes	
… Does not **expose data collectors to any risks as a direct result** of participation in data collection?	Yes	
… Does not **expose respondents/their communities to any risks as a direct result** of participation in data collection?	Yes	
… Does not **expose female respondents/their communities to any risks as a direct result** of participation in data collection?	Yes	
… Does not involve **collecting information on specific topics which may be stressful and/or re-traumatising** for research participants (both respondents and data collectors)?	Yes	
… Does not involve **data collection with minors** i.e. anyone less than 18 years old?	Yes	

… Does not involve **data collection with other vulnerable groups** e.g. persons with disabilities, victims/survivors of protection incidents, etc.?	Yes	
… Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of **personally identifiable information**?	Yes	

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Table 3: Description of Roles and Responsibilities

Task Description	*Responsible*	*Accountable*	*Consulted*	*Informed*
Research design	*Assessment Officer*	*Research Manager*	*GVA Research Design & Data Unit*	*ES/NFI cluster*
Supervising data collection	Senior Project Officer	Programme Manager	Data Base Officer and Assessment Officer	Research Manager
Data processing (checking, cleaning)	Senior Project Officer	Data Base Manager	Assessment Officer	*Research Manager*
Data analysis	Data Base Officer	Data Base Manager	Assessment Officer	GVA Research Design& Data Unit
Output production	Assessment Officer	Research Manager	GVA Research and Reporting Unit	Deputy Country Coordinator
Dissemination	Assessment Officer	Research Manager	ES/NFI cluster	Country Coordinator
Monitoring & Evaluation	Research Manager	Country Coordinator	*GVA Research Design& Data Unit*	UNHCR Programmes
Lessons learned	Assessment Officer	Research Manager	Country Coordinator	GVA Research Design& Data Unit

Responsible: *the person(s) who executes the task*

Accountable: *the person who validates the completion of the task and is accountable of the final output or milestone*

Consulted: *the person(s) who must be consulted when the task is implemented*

Informed: *the person(s) who need to be informed when the task is completed*

6. Data Analysis Plan

Please look at the data analysis plan (DAP) through this link.

7. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

IMPACT Objective	External M&E Indicator	Internal M&E Indicator	Focal point	Tool	Will indicator be tracked?
Humanitarian stakeholders are accessing IMPACT products	Number of humanitarian organisations accessing IMPACT services/products Number of individuals accessing IMPACT services/products	# of downloads of x product from Resource Center	Country request to HQ	User_log	X Yes
		# of downloads of x product from Relief Web	Country request to HQ		X Yes
		# of downloads of x product from Country level platforms	Country team		☐ Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from REACH global newsletter	Country request to HQ		X Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from country newsletter, sendingBlue, bit.ly	Country team		☐ Yes
		# of visits to x webmap/x dashboard	Country request to HQ		☐ Yes
IMPACT activities contribute to better program implementation and coordination of the humanitarian response	Number of humanitarian organisations utilizing IMPACT services/products	# references in HPC documents (HNO, SRP, Flash appeals, cluster/sector strategies)	Country team	Reference_log	ES/NFI cluster documents
		# references in single agency documents			
Humanitarian stakeholders are using IMPACT products	Humanitarian actors use IMPACT evidence/products as a basis for decision making, aid planning and delivery Number of humanitarian documents (HNO, HRP, cluster/agency strategic	Perceived relevance of IMPACT country-programs	Country team	Usage_Feedback *and* Usage_Survey template	*[Outline here the usage survey to be implemented for this research cycle* *E.g. Usage survey to be conducted in November 2017, following the release of x outputs, targeting at least 10 partners* *E.g. Usage survey to be conducted at the end of the*
		Perceived usefulness and influence of IMPACT outputs			
		Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			
		Perceived capacity of IMPACT staff			
		Perceived quality of outputs/programs			

	plans, etc.) directly informed by IMPACT products	Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			*research cycle related to all outputs, targeting at least 20 partners]*
Humanitarian stakeholders are engaged in IMPACT programs throughout the research cycle	Number and/or percentage of humanitarian organizations directly contributing to IMPACT programs *(providing resources, participating to presentations, etc.)*	# of organisations providing resources (i.e.staff, vehicles, meeting space, budget, etc.) for activity implementation	Country team	Engagement _log	X Yes
		# of organisations/clusters inputting in research design and joint analysis			X Yes
		# of organisations/clusters attending briefings on findings;			X Yes