

Household Emergency Assessment Tool (HEAT) Afghanistan

ERM 10 - May 2020

Overview

The Household Emergency Assessment Tool (HEAT) is a standardised emergency assessment tool adopted by the Afghanistan Humanitarian Country Team, and includes indicators illustrating demographics and a household's vulnerability in the following sectors: food security, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and livelihoods.

The HEAT is used as part of the ECHO funded Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM), to assess the eligibility of conflict and shock affected communities to one-time multi-purpose cash and WASH assistance. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) led consortium includes two other implementing partners, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) and International Rescue Committee (IRC). The response is also supported by the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DAACAR) for WASH related assistance. This factsheet summarises key indicators from the HEAT assessments carried out by partners in May 2020.

Methodology

The primary data for this factsheet was collected by partner organisations within the ERM through household interviews with conflict and shock affected communities. REACH combined and analysed the collected partner HEAT data in order to present key findings in this factsheet for the purpose of informing future ERM programming and advocacy. The findings are representative of the assessed households and are not to be interpreted as statistically generalisable to the whole population.

Limitations

All data was collected by ERM partners through their own channels, as such there was not one standardised methodology used. While efforts were made to consolidate the data as much as possible, this should be kept in mind whilst reviewing these findings.

Assessment Coverage

Households: **2,411**
Individuals: **12,797**
Provinces: **18**

Provinces Covered

Baghdis, Baghlan, Balkh, Farah, Faryab, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Jawzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Kunar, Kunduz, Samangan, Sar-e-pul, Takhar, and Wardak.

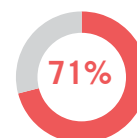
Household Demographics

Average household size: **5.3**

% of households by displacement status:

% of household members by sex and age:

Female (51%)	Age	Male (49%)
2%	60+	2%
19%	18-59	18%
17%	6-17	16%
13%	0-5	13%



Displaced households

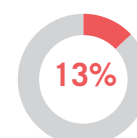
% of displaced households by displacement reason⁷:

Conflict	30%
Natural disaster	74%
Other	16%

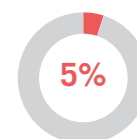
Vulnerability and Priority Needs

% of households by key vulnerability indicators:¹

- 2% At least one member with a disability²
- 13% More than 10 household members
- 18% Exhibiting health seeking behaviour³
- 21% Debt greater than 8,000 AFN



Female headed households



Elderly headed households



Child headed households

Income, Debt and Livelihoods

Reported main source of income since shock:

None	0%
Agriculture	48%
Daily unskilled labour	44%
Daily skilled labour	2%
Other	5%

Reported monthly household debt:

Average reported debt: **6,700 AFN**
Of which, loans contracted in the 30 days prior the interview: **5,000 AFN**

The average debt contracted by the assessed households was **5 times higher** than the average income at the time of the assessment.

Most frequently reported reasons for contracted debt⁴:

Food	87%
Rent	4%
Healthcare	1%

Average reported monthly income: **1,300 AFN**

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WASH

% of households using an unimproved water source⁵ as their main source for domestic use at the time of the interview:



Using unimproved water source for domestic use

% of households reporting not having access to enough water at the time of interview:

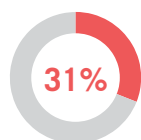
39% Not enough water for drinking, cooking or bathing

95% of households reported their main water source to be further than 500 metres away.

27% of households reported using an unimproved latrine type.⁶

Health

% of households without a functional health facility within 2 hours of their house:



No functional health facility within 2 hours

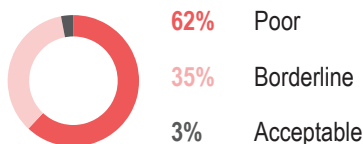
49% of households reported facing at least one barrier to accessing healthcare. The most frequently reported barriers were:⁷

- 1 44% Cost of medicines
- 2 36% Cost of healthcare
- 3 35% Cost of transports
- 4 20% Distance and travel time
- 5 2% Insufficient capacity of facilities

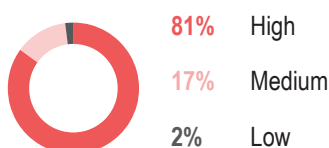
47% of households reported that they had delayed seeking medical care for critical health problems to save money in the 30 days prior to data collection.

Food Security

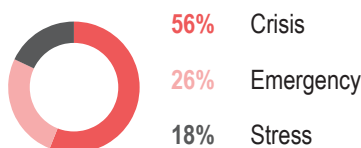
% of households by Food Consumption Score (FCS):⁸



% of households by reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) score:⁹



% of households by Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) score:¹⁰



Education

% of school aged children (aged 6 to 17) reported to not be attending formal school:

- 70% Girls out of school
- 67% Boys out of school

Of the 69% of households reporting that they had school aged children not attending school, the most frequently reported reasons were:⁷

- 1 51% Cost
- 2 43% Lack of documentation
- 3 11% Distance
- 4 10% Work and child labor
- 5 5% Security concerns

55% of households reported that they had stopped sending children to school in order to engage them in working for economic gain or productive activities

Shelter

% of households by reported shelter type occupied at the time of interview:

House	36%
Tent or makeshift shelter	58%
Open space	6%
Non-residential shelter	0%
Unfinished building	0%

31% of households reported to be renting the shelter they occupied at the time of interview.

% households by most frequently reported concerns related to the shelter occupied:⁷

- 1 52% Damaged building
- 2 26% Size
- 3 16% Eviction
- 4 2% Lack of repair materials
- 5 1% Lack of autonomy

On average, households reported 7 persons to be living in the shelter they occupied at the time of interview.

NFI Non Food Items (NFIs)

Of the 99% of households reported to be in need of at least one key NFI, the reported items needed were:⁷

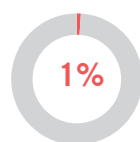
- 59% Sleeping mats or mattresses
- 63% Plastic tarpaulin
- 99% Cooking pots
- 62% Stainless steel cups
- 95% Water storage containers
- 63% Gas cylinders
- 82% Clothing
- 92% Female sanitary items
- 2% Mobile or assistive device

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Protection

% of households reporting a member to have experienced a protection incident or at risk:



At least one member experienced a protection incident or is at a risk

Reported protection incident or risk experienced by men and boys:⁷

0%	Physical violence or harassment
1%	Denial of resources or access to services
0%	Marriage earlier than otherwise planned
0%	Drug addiction or exposure to illegal drug use

Reported protection incident or risk experienced by women and girls:⁷

0%	Physical violence or harassment
1%	Denial of resources or access to services
0%	Marriage earlier than otherwise planned
0%	Drug addiction or exposure to illegal drug use

Reported protection incident or risk experienced by children:⁷

0%	Physical violence or harassment
1%	Denial of resources or access to services
0%	Marriage earlier than otherwise planned
0%	Drug addiction or exposure to illegal drug use

Accountability to Affected Population

4% of households reported having **no access to mobile network communications and tools.**

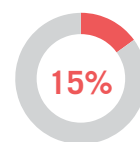
55% of households reported **preferring to receive assistance in cash.**

% of households reporting preferred way of communicating feedback or complaints:

Call awaaz ¹¹	36%
Through authorities	35%
In person	18%
Community leaders	8%
Calling the agency	4%

Awareness and Impact of COVID-19

% of households reporting being unaware of COVID-19:



Unaware of COVID-19

% of households by reported access to hand washing facilities and soap:

32%	No hand washing facilities available
95%	No access to soap or hand sanitizer

% of households who witnessed any members of their community being discriminated against as a result of COVID-19:



Witnessed any community member discriminated against

% of households by primary symptoms of COVID-19 reported to be aware of:⁷

Fever	85%
Coughing	85%
Breathing difficulty	63%
Fatigue	50%
Other	1%

% of households by preventative measure to COVID-19 reported to be aware of:⁷

Washing hands	92%
Social distancing	79%
Self isolation	54%
Gloves and masks	51%
No face touching	43%

% of households reported witnessing discrimination due to COVID-19, by group targeted:⁷

0%	People with chronic illness
1%	Women and girls
8%	Men and boys
0%	People with disabilities
6%	Returnees

End Notes

¹ Vulnerability indicators listed correspond to household characteristics that make up part of the ERM MPCA eligibility criteria.

² Disability is counted as at least one member of the household reported to have a severe disability, based on Washington Group questions, where the individual either 'cannot do at all', or has 'a lot of difficulty doing' any of the following: seeing, hearing, walking, remembering, self care (such as washing or dressing), or communicating. For more information see [here](#).

³ Health seeking behaviour is qualified as any household reporting that there has been a household member with a health issue for which they have wanted to seek medical care.

⁴ Most frequently reported reasons for contracted debt from households who reported being in debt.

⁵ Households were asked to report their main source of water for domestic use. Improved water sources include: hand pump/ bore well, piped water, protected spring, or purchased water. Unimproved sources include: dug well, stream/river, kandas, unprotected spring, pond/lake, or other. For more information see [here](#).

⁶ Households were asked to report the type of latrine they had access to. Improved latrine types include family latrine, family VIP latrine. Unimproved latrine types include community latrine, no latrine, or other. For more information see [here](#).

⁷ Respondents could report multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.

⁸ The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is calculated using the frequency of a household's consumption of different food groups during the 7 days before the survey. For more information see [here](#).

⁹ The Reduced Coping Strategies Index (RCSI) is based on the rate that households with food consumption problems relied on negative coping strategies during the 7 days before the survey. For more information see [here](#).

¹⁰ The Livelihoods Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) score is a measure of reliance on livelihood-based coping mechanisms to cope with lack of food. For more information see [here](#).

¹¹ Awaaz, humanitarian helpline connecting Afghans (IDPs, returnees) and refugees affected by conflict and natural disaster with information on assistance.