

Rapid Market Assessment: Baghlan Floods

May 2024

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Introduction

On the 10-11th of May, a major flooding event occurred in the northeastern region of Afghanistan and particularly the Baghlan district. As emergency relief is planned to be carried out in part through cash based interventions (CBI), the Cash and Voucher Working Group (CVWG) requested a rapid assessment of the markets in the affected area to preliminarily determine the feasibility of a cash based response.

Methodology

This assessment relies on key informant interviews (KIIs) with wholesalers, who were selected based on convenience and according to the nature of their businesses. Findings are therefore indicative only.

Data was collected between 14 and 16 of May 2024, in Baghlan-e-Jadid, Burka, Dahana-e-Ghori, and Pul-e-Khumri. In each district, three vendors were interviewed. The **small market in Guzargah-e-Noor was reportedly destroyed** on the 11 of May, and residents are likely to rely on markets in Burka and other nearby districts.

Data was collected through Acted field teams engaged in the Emergency Joint Needs Assessments in the Baghlan province.

Key findings

Despite being open, all vendors reported that the flooding had a **negative impact** on their businesses.

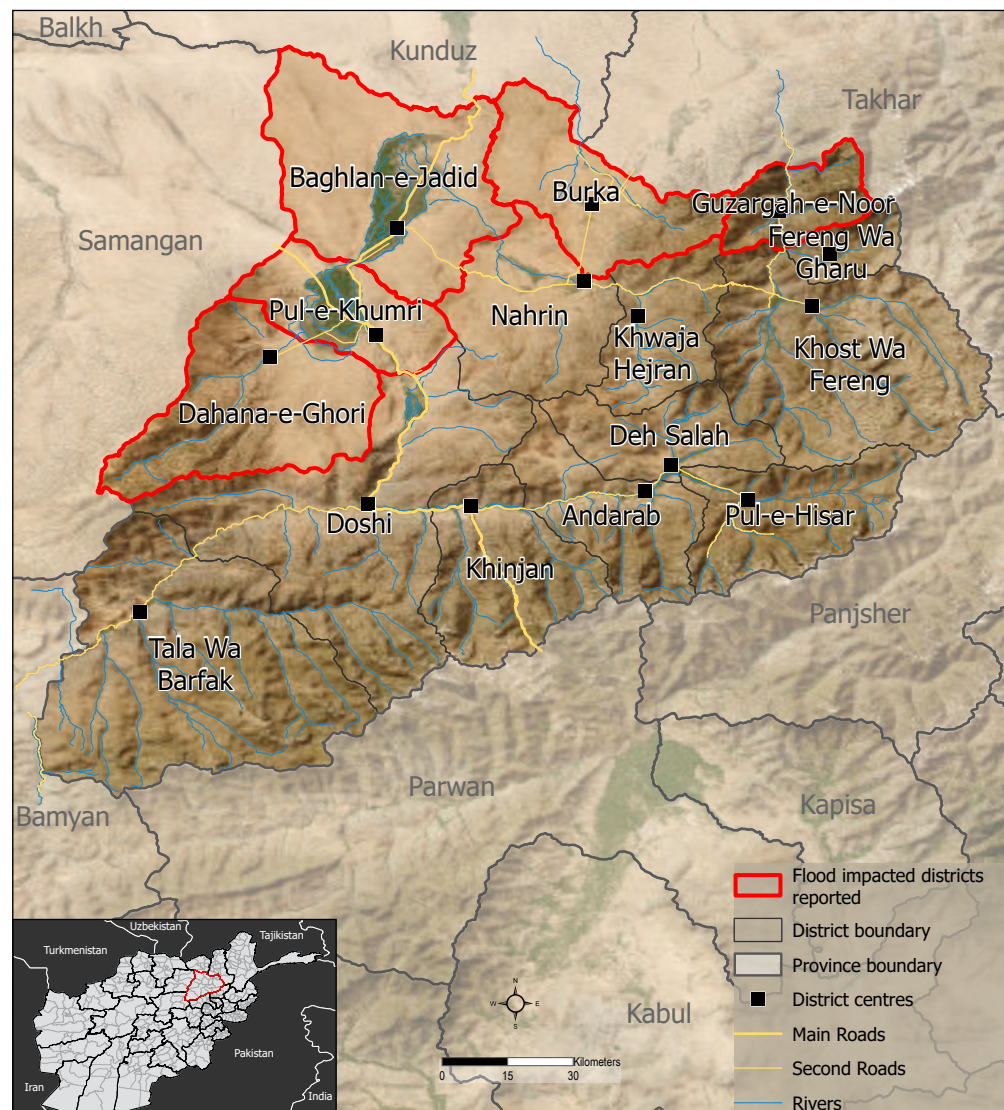
Nine out of 12 vendors reported that the number of suppliers for their business has **decreased greatly**, when compared to seven days prior to the flood.

Vendors across the province reportedly depend on suppliers in **Pul-e-Khumri**, the capital city, but 2 out of 3 vendors there reported having **less suppliers** than before the flood.

Prices in Burka were reported to be about **20% higher** than the other three districts.

The average number of **days for restocking** was reported to be between one and two days for all districts, **except in Burka**, where the number of days is reported to be five.

Districts assessed



Marketplace

At the time of data collection, three to five days after the flood event, respondents reported that all vendors continued to operate within their marketplace. Despite being open, all vendors reported the flooding to have had a negative impact on their businesses.

Items sold

Vendors were asked which items are normally sold in their shops. All vendors reported selling beans, blankets, cooking oil, jackets, plastic sheets, rice, ropes, salt, sugar, tarpaulin, tents, wheat, and winter jackets. The majority reported selling shovels, cooking pots, nails, LPG (fuel), drinking water, water containers, soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. Only 2/12 vendors reported selling petrol or sanitary pads.

Storage

When asked about changes to their storage capacity, only one vendor (out of three) interviewed in Dahana-e-Ghori reported a decrease when compared to the seven days prior to the flood. Vendors from the other three districts all reported no change.

Suppliers

According to the JMMI, vendors in the Baghlan province usually rely on 5-8 different suppliers, mostly located in Pul-e-Khumri, the province capital.¹

However, when asked about the number of suppliers, only two vendors across all four districts reported no change: one vendor in Pul-e-Khumri and another in Baghlan-e-Jadid. One vendor in Burka reported a small decrease in the number of suppliers when compared to the seven days prior to the flood, while all other vendors reported a major decrease.

Has the number of wholesalers/suppliers for commodities for your business changed when compared to the seven days prior to the flood?

75% decrease greatly

8% decrease slightly

17% no change



Customers

According to the vendors interviewed, prior to the flooding an average of 19 to 22 customers would come to their shops per day (except in Burka, where the average was 13 customers). These customers come from the same neighbourhood and village, but also other villages in the same district. After the flooding, all vendors reported that the number of customers decreased.

Non-food items

Vendors were asked about the price of key non-food items (Table 1). Prices in Burka were reported to be about 20% higher than the other three districts. All vendors reported that the listed non-food items were imported, that they had no shortages of any of those

items in the past 30 days, and that they would be able to meet a 50% increase in the demand of all items mentioned. All vendors reported foreseeing no barriers preventing them from responding to an increased demand for non-food items (NFIs).

The average number of days to receive a new shipment (restocking) is between one and two days for all districts, except in Burka, where the number of days is reported to be five.

Demand

According to all vendors interviewed, the demand for blankets, cooking oil, rice, salt, tarpaulin, tents, winter jackets, and wheat has increased. Between 6 and 9 vendors mentioned an increase in the demand for beans, rope, cooking pots, shovels, nails, sugar, LPG (fuel), plastic sheets, and drinking water. Less than half of vendors mentioned water containers, soap, and toothpaste as goods for which the demand has increased.

Credit

None of the vendors interviewed reported offering their customers the opportunity to purchase on credit. Half of the vendors reported an increase and the other half a decrease in demand for credit from customers, with an almost even split within each district.² According to the JMMI, vendors in the Baghlan province only accept cash (AFG).

Table 1: Non-food items assessed for availability and *median* price

Item	Price (AFG)	Price (USD)	Current stock (days)
Blankets	980	13.69	15
Nails (assorted)	100	1.40	19
Plastic sheets	25	0.35	16
Rope	14	0.19	15
Shovel	250	3.49	16
Tarpaulin	425	5.94	12
Tent	4500	62.85	12
Winter jacket	500	6.98	16

About REACH

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

1. JMMI May 2024. Available [here](#)

2. It is unclear if vendors offer credit informally