

Household Emergency Assessment Tool (HEAT) Afghanistan

ERM 10 - October 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 for one-time multi-purpose cash and WASH assistance. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) led consortium includes two other implementing partners, 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 October 2020.

Methodology

The primary data for this factsheet was collected by partner organisations within the ERM through household interviews within 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.

Exceptions

Due to the impact of the floods that occurred in August, a short version of the HEAT was deployed to rapidly assess shock-affected households. Data from the short tool are not reported in this factsheet.

Assessment Coverage

Households¹: 2,885

Individuals: 18,418

Provinces: 23

% of households found eligible to receive assistance in October:¹ 96%

Provinces Covered

Badakhshan, Badghis, Baghlan, Balkh, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Jawzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunduz, Laghman, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Paktya, Sar-e-pul, Takhar, and Zabul.

Household Demographics

Average household size: 6.4 individuals

% of households by displacement profile:

% of household members by sex and age:

Female (52%)	Age	Male (48%)
2%	60+	2%
18%	18-59	14%
21%	6-17	20%
11%	0-5	12%



Displaced households*

*The remaining 1% of assessed households were reportedly shock-affected non-displaced.

% of displaced households by reason:²

Active conflict	99%
Anticipated conflict	29%
Other	1%

Vulnerability and Priority Needs

% of households by key vulnerability indicators:³

- 21% At least one member with a disability⁴
- 5% More than 10 household members
- 71% Exhibiting health seeking behaviour⁵
- 91% 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:

Small business	1%
Agriculture and livestock	7%
Daily unskilled labour	57%
Daily skilled labour	4%
Other	32%

Reported monthly household debt:

Average reported debt: 28,930 AFN
Of which, average amount accrued in the 30 days prior to interview: 10,630 AFN

The average debt contracted by the assessed households was 22 times higher than the average income at the time of the assessment.

Average reported monthly income: 1,295 AFN

The average household income divided by the average household size results in 218 AFN per person, per month

Most frequently reported reasons for contracted debt:^{2,6}

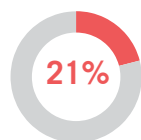
Food	73%
Healthcare	12%
Rent	7%

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WASH

% of households that reported using an unimproved water source⁷ as their main source for domestic use at the time of the interview:



Using unimproved water source for domestic use



Households reporting not having enough water for drinking, cooking or bathing

86% of households reported their main water source to be further than 500 metres away.

23% of households reported using an unimproved latrine type.⁸

Health

% of households that reported a functional health facility is not within 2 hours of their house:



No functional health facility within 2 hours

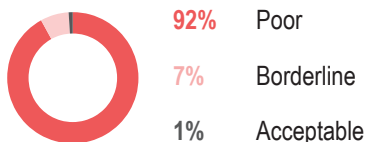
89% of households reported facing at least one barrier to accessing healthcare. The most frequently reported barriers were:²

- 1 75% Cost of medicines
- 2 61% Cost of healthcare
- 3 50% Cost of transport
- 4 7% Insufficient capacity
- 5 7% Distance and travel time

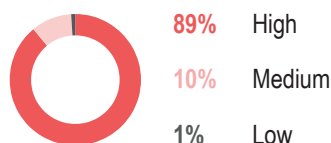
66% of households reported that they had delayed seeking medical care for critical health problems to save money in the 30 days prior to data collection.

Food Security

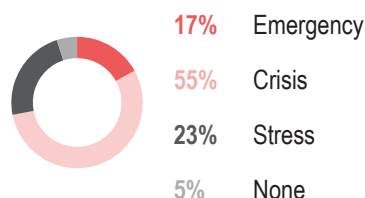
% of households by Food Consumption Score (FCS):⁹



% of households by reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) score:¹⁰



% of households by Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCS) score:¹¹



Education

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



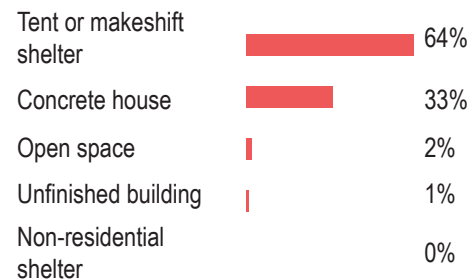
Of the 98% of households that reported they had school aged children not attending school, the most frequently reported reasons were:^{2,12}

- 1 75% Lack of documentation
- 2 22% Costs
- 3 21% Security concerns
- 4 9% Distance
- 5 6% Work

20% of households reported that they had stopped sending children to school so that they could work for economic gain or productive activities.

Shelter

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



63% of households reported renting the shelter they occupied at the time of interview.

% of households by most frequently reported shelter concerns:

- 1 53% Eviction
- 2 21% Size
- 3 7% Damaged building
- 4 7% Landlord problems
- 5 5% Safety

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

NFI Non Food Items (NFIs)

Of the 100% of households reported being in need of at least one key NFI, the reported items needed were:²

- 85% Clothing
- 95% Cooking pots
- 77% Female sanitary items
- 92% Gas cylinders
- 6% Mobile or assistive device
- 96% Plastic tarpaulin
- 93% Sleeping mats or mattresses
- 89% Stainless steel cups
- 91% Water storage containers

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Protection

% of households that reported at least one member has experienced a protection incident or is at risk:



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

% of households that reported a male member has experienced or is at risk of the following protection incidents:²

12%	Physical violence or harassment
16%	Denial of resources or access to services
1%	Marriage earlier than otherwise planned
2%	Drug addiction or exposure to illegal drug use

% of households that reported a female member has experienced or is at risk of the following protection incidents:²

8%	Physical violence or harassment
13%	Denial of resources or access to services
4%	Marriage earlier than otherwise planned
0%	Drug addiction or exposure to illegal drug use

% of households that reported a child member has experienced or is at risk of the following protection incidents:²

6%	Physical violence or harassment
9%	Denial of resources or access to services
1%	Marriage earlier than otherwise planned
1%	Drug addiction or exposure to illegal drug use

Accountability to Affected Populations

8% of households reported having no access to mobile network communications and tools.

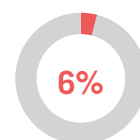
53% of households reported preferring to receive assistance in cash.

% of households by reported preferred method of communicating feedback or complaints:

Call Awaaz ¹³	35%
Calling the agency	12%
In person	31%
Through authorities	11%
Community leaders	6%
Other	5%

Awareness and Impact of COVID-19

% of households that reported being unaware of COVID-19:

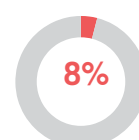


Unaware of COVID-19

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

26%	No hand washing facilities available
83%	No access to soap or hand sanitizer

% of households that reported witnessing any members of their community being discriminated against as a result of COVID-19:



Witnessed any community member discriminated against

% of households by reported primary symptoms of COVID-19 they are aware of:^{2,14}

Coughing	93%
Fever	91%
Breathing difficulty	81%
Fatigue	47%
Other	1%

% of households by reported preventative measure to COVID-19 they are aware of:^{2,14}

Washing hands	94%
Social distancing	74%
Self isolation	61%
Gloves and masks	54%
Avoid crowds	35%

% of households that reported witnessing discrimination due to COVID-19, by group targeted:²

3%	People with chronic illness
0%	Returnees
2%	Elders
2%	People with disabilities
7%	Adults (men and/or women)

End Notes

- The number of households reported corresponds exclusively to those assessed with the entire HEAT tool. Additional households were assessed with a short-tool due to extremely dire conditions and just on an exceptional basis.
- Respondents could report multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.
- Vulnerability indicators listed correspond to household characteristics that make up part of the ERM multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) eligibility criteria.
- Disability is counted as at least one member of the household having 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](#).
- 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.
- Most frequently reported reasons for accruing debt from households who reported being in debt.
- 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](#).
- 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](#).
- 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](#).
- 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](#).
- 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](#).
- Data was collected during closure of schools due to COVID-19 which may have affected reporting.
- Awaaz, is an humanitarian helpline connecting Afghans (IDPs, returnees) and refugees affected by conflict and natural disaster with information on assistance modalities.
- Question was asked exclusively to those respondents who reported being aware of COVID-19.