

Household Emergency Assessment

Tool (HEAT) Afghanistan

ERM 11 - October 2021

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 households' vulnerability in the following sectors: food security, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and livelihoods.

The HEAT is used as part of the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (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. Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) and Action Against Hunger (AAH), conducted the assessments using the HEAT tool. This factsheet summarises key indicators from the HEAT assessments carried out by partners in October 2021.

Methodology

The primary data for this factsheet was collected by ERM partners through household interviews within conflict and shock-affected communities. REACH combined and analysed HEAT data collected by partners in order to present key findings in this factsheet for the purpose of informing future programming and advocacy. Findings are not generalisable with a known level of precision, hence should be considered indicative, rather than representative, of the situation and experiences of shock-affected households in Afghanistan.

Limitations

All data was collected by ERM partners through their own channels, as such there was not one standardised methodology for primary data collection 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: 279
- Individuals: 1,889
- Provinces: 9

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

Provinces Covered

Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, ghor, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul and Takhar.

Household Demographics

Average household size: 7 individuals

% of household members by sex and age:

Female (51%)	Age	Male (49%)
2%	60+	2%
19%	18-59	13%
19%	6-17	22%
11%	0-5	12%

% of households by key vulnerability indicators:¹

- 85% Debt greater than 8,000 AFN
- 53% Exhibiting health seeking behaviour²
- 38% Female headed households
- 18% At least one member with a disability³
- 12% Elderly headed households
- 9% Debt greater than 45,000 AFN
- 4% More than 10 household members
- 0% Child headed households

Displacement profile and movement intentions

% of households by displacement profile:



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

% of households that reported intending to remain in the Area of Displacement (AoD) in the three months after data collection:



Households intending to remain in the AoD

% of displaced households by reason for displacement:⁴

Active conflict	89%
Natural disasters	23%
Anticipated conflict	8%

10% of the displaced households reported wanting to return to their Area of Origin (AoO) in the 3 months after data collection.

Protection

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



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

Debt

% of households that reported being in debt:



Households that reported being in debt, with an overall average debt of 21,112 AFN per household

Most frequently reported reasons for contracted debt:^{4,5}

- 98% Food
- 66% Rent
- 54% Healthcare

Phone accessibility

% of households that reported having access to a phone:¹³



Households that reported having access to a phone

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WASH

% of households that reported using an unimproved water source⁶ at the time of the interview:



Using unimproved water source for domestic use

% of households that reported not having enough water for domestic use at the time of the interview:



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

25% of households reported their main water source to be further than 500 metres away.

12% of households reported not having hand washing facilities available

84% of households reported not having access to soap or hand sanitizer

25% of households reported using an unimproved latrine type, or open defecation⁷

Health

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



No functional health facility within 2 hours

81% of households reported facing at least one barrier to accessing healthcare. The most frequently reported barriers were:⁴

- 1 77% Cost of medicines
- 2 65% Cost of healthcare
- 3 48% Cost of transport
- 4 14% Distance and travel time
- 5 5% Unknown location of the facilities

48% 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) category:⁸



96% Poor
3% Borderline
1% Acceptable

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



91% High
6% Medium
3% Low

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



31% Emergency
48% Crisis
20% Stress
1% None

Accountability to Affected Populations

% of households by reported preferred type of assistance:



40% CVA¹¹
0% In kind
0% Services
60% Mix

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

In person	53%
Call Awaaz ¹²	24%
Calling the agency	14%
Through authorities	4%
Community leaders	3%
Other	1%

Shelter

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

Mud house	85%
Concrete house	11%
Unfinished building	3%
Tent or makeshift shelter	1%
Open space	0%

% of households by most frequently reported shelter concerns:⁴

- 1 73% Eviction
- 2 32% Size (too small/crowded)
- 3 23% No insulation
- 4 13% Damaged building
- 5 2% Landlord problems

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 reporting being in need of at least one key NFI, the reported items needed were:⁴

- 92% Gas cylinders
- 88% Clothing
- 86% Plastic tarpaulin
- 85% Cooking pots
- 83% Water storage containers
- 80% Sleeping mats or mattresses
- 77% Stainless steel cups
- 76% Female sanitary items
- 6% Mobile or assistive device

End Notes

- 1 Vulnerability indicators listed correspond to household characteristics that make up part of the ERM multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) eligibility criteria.
- 2 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.
- 3 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](#).
- 4 Respondents could report multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.
- 5 Most frequently reported reasons for accruing debt from households who reported being in debt.
- 6 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](#).
- 7 Households were asked to report the type of latrine they had access to. Improved latrine types include family latrine, family Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrine. Unimproved latrine types include community latrine, no latrine, or other. For more information see [here](#).
- 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 number of days on which households relied on negative coping strategies to deal with a lack of food in the 7 days prior to data collection. 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 or income to buy food in the 30 days prior to data collection. For more information see [here](#).
- 11 Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)
- 12 Awaaz, is a humanitarian helpline connecting Afghans (IDPs, returnees) and refugees affected by conflict and natural disaster with information on assistance modalities.
13. The indicator of households reported having access to a phone represents 72% of data as the question is excluded from updated HEAT tool.