

AFGHANISTAN

# Whole of Afghanistan

Multi-Sector Needs Assessment

Assessment Report

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REACH

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more effective  
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### About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH's mission is to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information please visit our website: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org) and follow us on Twitter @REACH\_info.



## SUMMARY

### Context

After 17 years of continued crisis, Afghanistan remains one of the world's most complex humanitarian emergencies, driven by escalating conflict and a devastating drought with a precipitation deficit of more than 70% in the preceding year across almost two-thirds of the country<sup>1</sup>. The drought, in particular, resulted in high levels of forced displacement in 2018, with 263,000 new drought internally displaced persons (IDPs) and almost 290,000 conflict IDPs registered as of October this year<sup>2</sup>. Corresponding humanitarian needs for livelihoods and basic services were furthermore exacerbated by 702,000 refugee returns from Pakistan and Iran between January and October 2018 and the needs of 78,000 Pakistani refugees residing in south-east Afghanistan.<sup>3</sup> In addition to these groups, an increasing number of non-displaced populations require lifesaving humanitarian assistance, with a total of 3.3 million people facing emergency levels of food insecurity in September 2018<sup>4</sup>.

The combination of these factors, resulted in almost twice as many people in need projected by the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (2019), compared to the previous year. Throughout 2019, the HNO estimates 6.3 million people to need lifesaving assistance in Afghanistan, cutting across sectors, including Education in Emergencies (EiE), Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES-NFI), Food Security and Agriculture (FSAC), Health, Nutrition, Protection, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

Alongside 17 sector-specific assessments, the Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA) provided the main and most comprehensive data source for the 2019 HNO analysis. The assessment covered needs relevant to all national Clusters, in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan and across 70 of the country's hard-to-reach (HTR) districts.<sup>5</sup> This report builds on and complements the 2019 HNO analysis and offers additional insights into unmet sectoral needs and, most importantly, inter-sectoral findings – identifying how Cluster needs overlap, interact and exacerbate one another. The WoAA thereby, as the first assessment of its kind in Afghanistan, provides an evidence base for integrated response planning to effectively address inter-sectoral drivers of need across geographical areas and population groups.

### Assessment

The WoAA research framework and questionnaire components were developed in close coordination with the Humanitarian Coordinated Assessment Working Group (HCAWG), the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT), and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). From July to August 2018, the WoAA team conducted 22,135 structured interviews in accessible areas throughout all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. The interviews were randomly sampled and stratified according to displacement status, including recent IDP, non-recent IDP, returnee, refugee, and host community households. Findings based on the household-level assessment are generalisable at the provincial level for displaced populations overall, and for each of the population groups at the regional level, with a confidence level of 95% and 5% margin of error. Assisting with the data collection were 16 national partner organisations, coordinated through the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR).

Given that household-level surveys could only be conducted in accessible areas, the WoAA team conducted an additional 1,392 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) in 70 HTR districts, spread across 20 provinces. The KIIs were structured around Basic Service Units (BSUs), geographical catchment areas in which a community draws on shared basic services.<sup>6</sup> The community, reflected by the BSU, is accordingly the KIIs' unit of analysis. In addition, 143 KIIs were conducted in October 2018 with health-care specialists in all provinces to provide insights into trauma

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Afghanistan Drought Contingency Plan, April 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Overview of Natural Disasters: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/natural-disasters-0>

<sup>3</sup> OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> For more information on the criteria according to which hard-to-reach districts were identified see REACH Hard to Reach Assessment, June 2018: <http://bit.ly/2wCsDdW>

<sup>6</sup> For more information see REACH Hard to Reach Assessment, June 2018: <http://bit.ly/2wCsDdW>

injuries and care. Lastly community members, chosen for their knowledge of their communities, participated in 68 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) (2 per province<sup>7</sup>) to provide insights into more sensitive topics, including gender based violence (GBV) and child protection, and to gain a better understanding of quantitative findings. Findings of the KIs or FGDs are not representative.

As the report aims to complement the 2019 HNO and the inter-sector severity scale (ISSS) the HNO needs analysis was based upon, the WoAA sector indexes of unmet needs were based almost entirely on indicators not included in the HNO's People in Need (PiN) calculations. All WoAA indicators were initially agreed upon with the Humanitarian Coordinated Access Working Group (HCAWG) in June 2018. Key quantitative and qualitative findings of the WoAA include:

### Humanitarian Profile of the Crisis

Conflict and violence continue to play a central role in the life of most Afghan households, with **62% reporting having experienced active conflict or violence in their community in the six months prior to data collection**. Compared to those in urban areas (56%), households in rural areas were more exposed to conflict (66%). However, **in the West the drought had recently become households' main concern**, with 45% reporting that their livelihoods were damaged or destroyed by the drought, well above the national average (8%), and well above the proportion of households in the West that experienced conflict or violence in the six month prior to data collection (25%).

In line with the above, **the primary reason for internal displacement continued to be active or anticipated conflict** (86% of recent IDP households), while the proportion of recent IDP households stating natural disaster as their main push factor for displacement was significantly higher in the West (37%) than in the rest of the country (7%).

For households affected by the drought, the primary effects were in the FSAC and WASH sectors. Of households who were affected by the drought and whose main source of income was livestock, 15% noted that livestock had died, another 13% stated that livestock became ill, and 12% that livestock were producing less in the six months prior to this survey. **Of households who were affected by the drought and whose main source of income was agriculture, 43% highlighted a loss of more than 50% in agricultural production in the six months prior to this survey.**

In the West, 20% of IDP households stated that a secondary reason for their movement was humanitarian assistance, compared to a 5% national average. This indicates that the humanitarian drought response in Hirat and Badghis may have been a potential pull factor for displacement.

Across Afghanistan, **households' two main concerns were consistently economic concerns (94%) and unemployment (87%)**, highlighting the complexity and structural challenges of this protracted crisis. Indeed, 42% of IDP households stated that the search for economic opportunity was a secondary reason for their displacement.

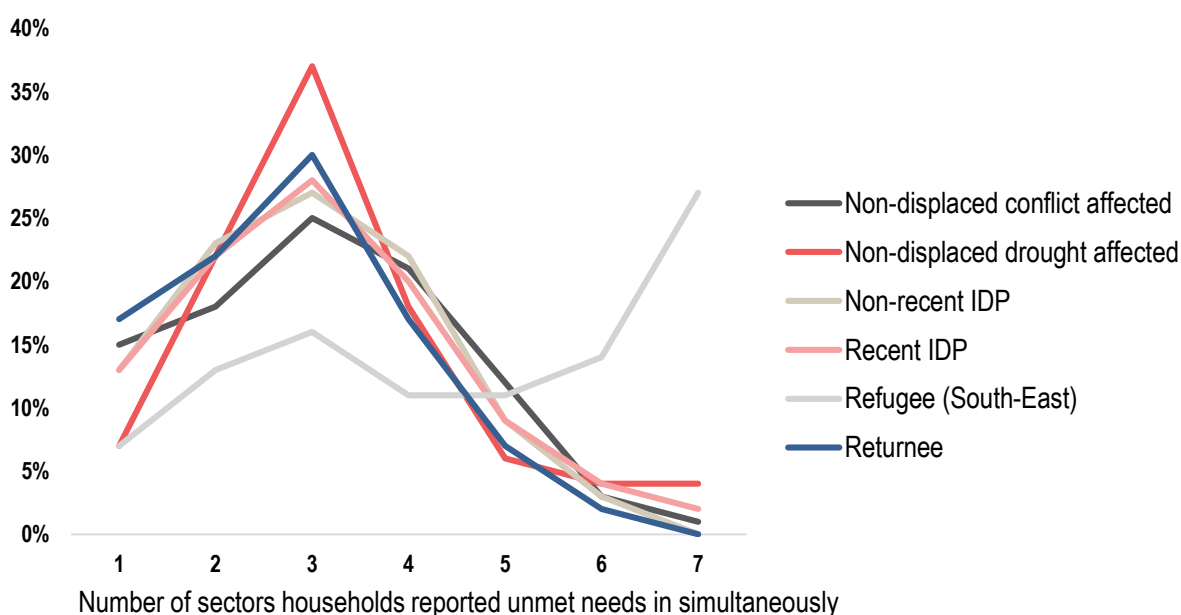
### Inter-Sectoral Unmet Needs

**Households that were affected by the drought, but were not displaced, faced some of the most complex unmet need situations**, with 70% reporting unmet needs in three or more of the sectors at the same time, compared to a 60% national average across crisis affected displaced population groups. This suggests that the humanitarian community may want to target its integrated humanitarian response efforts towards non-displaced drought-affected populations, as is currently being planned through a pilot project in Badghis province.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Each province had one focus group discussion with all female participants and one with all male participants.

<sup>8</sup> For more information see OCHA, 2018-2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, 2018

Proportion of households with unmet needs in one or more sectors at the same time, by population group



The regions with the highest proportion of households reporting concurrent unmet needs in three or more of the sectors were the South-East (70%), North (68%), and South (65%), compared to 43% in the Capital and Central Highlands. Particularly badly affected were the Pakistani refugee households in the South-East, of which 79% reported three or more simultaneous unmet needs.

Households living in rural areas were significantly more likely to face three or more unmet needs at the same time (54%) than urban ones (43%). Moreover, 80% of households without a tazkira national identity card reported three or more unmet needs, compared to 56% of other households.

The three sectors that most commonly overlapped with other sectors, in terms of unmet needs of displaced households (IDPs and returnees), were FSAC, WASH, and ES-NFI. The prevalence of these three sectors for displaced populations is likely due to the fact that about half of all 2018 IDP households displaced as a result of the drought.

For non-displaced, drought affected households, the ES-NFI sector was replaced by Protection, rendering WASH, Protection, and FSAC the three sectors that most commonly overlapped with other sectors, in terms of unmet needs. Each of the three sector pairings of unmet WASH-FSAC, FSAC-Protection, or WASH-Protection needs affected at least 40% of the non-displaced drought-affected households, while the combination of all three unmet needs affected 27%.

Lastly, for non-displaced conflict affected households, the sectors that most commonly overlapped with other sectors, in terms of unmet needs, were, in order of magnitude: Health, FSAC, and Protection. The high prevalence of unmet Health needs may indicate the difficulty of populations in conflict-affected areas to access adequate health services.

## Sectoral Unmet Needs

### Education

Nationally, the assessment found that 19% of crisis affected and displaced households have an unmet EiE needs. The WoAA found this proportion of households with EiE needs to be significantly higher for non-displaced drought affected households (27%), which was predominantly due to them being more likely to rely on their children working instead of going to school. Regionally, the North had the highest reports of school-aged children out of school, either due to conflict / natural disaster (19%) or removed from school to support the family in earning

an income (33%). In the East, 10% of households cited that the schools within walking distance were closed due to conflict or natural disaster, compared to only 1-3% in all other regions.

For the HTR districts, KIs reported that in one third of BSUs in the Central Highlands (33%) and South (33%) education facilities were closed due to conflict, which indicates a higher rates of school closures in HTR areas in these regions.

## ES-NFI

**Nationally, IDP and returnee households were found to be significantly more likely to have unmet ESNFI needs (58% and 42%, respectively), than either of the non-displaced population group (33% and 31%).** The primary driver for the difference in unmet ESNFI needs was the proportion of households living in a tent, makeshift shelter, or open space. Furthermore, the assessment found that **all vulnerability characteristics** (households with a female, disabled, or elderly head as well as households living in an informal settlement, or not having a single tazkira in the household) **correlated with a significantly higher proportion of households with unmet ESNFI needs.**

Overall, **the HTR KIIs did not indicate significantly higher unmet ESNFI needs in HTR areas** compared to the crisis affected and displaced populations in accessible areas.

## FSAC

Throughout Afghanistan, **three out of four crisis affected and displaced households expressed unmet FSAC needs (76%).** Regionally, the highest needs were found in the West, where 92% of all displaced households were classified as having unmet FSAC needs, which were predominantly driven by a poor Food Security Consumption (FCS). This finding aligns with the recent displacement of more than 250,000 drought-affected IDPs within the western provinces of Badghis and Hirat.

Similar to the 2019 HNO, the WoAA found that rural households (73%) more commonly had unmet FSAC needs than urban households (62%). The primary driver of this difference is attributed to high reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) scores with 29% of households reporting having adopted negative coping strategies compared to 19% of urban households. **This suggests rural households have less means to effectively address and cope with food insecurity than their urban counterparts.**

## Health

**A significantly higher proportion of non-displaced conflict-affected households was found to lack access to medication (26%),** than the national average of the crisis affected and displaced households (18%). In addition, the non-displaced, conflict affected population was found to have a higher proportion of households with members feeling unable to go to health facilities, due to them being prevented by armed groups or the journey or health facility being unsafe. This may indicate that displaced households tend to select locations that are better serviced by health centres.

**The proportion of households with unmet health needs was markedly higher for population groups living in rural areas (34%) than those living in urban areas (26%).** This was true across all health indicators but the biggest difference was in households' perception of being unable to go to health facilities.

Overall, the HTR KIIs confirm the Health Cluster's concern in the 2019 HNO that the **populations in HTR areas face some of the highest health-related needs.** KIs reported that the communities in 58% of BSUs lacked access to medication due to either conflict, unavailability in the local market, or damage to supply routes or storage facilities. In contrast, only 16% of households from the stratified populations groups faced this challenge in the accessible areas.

## Nutrition

Nationally, the WoAA found that **across the crisis affected and displaced population groups 25% of households had unmet nutrition needs.** While the assessment found no significant differences between the individual population groups, there were regional differences; a larger proportion of households in the Capital and Central Highlands reported unmet Nutrition needs (42%), followed by the West (32%).

The assessment furthermore found that households without a single tazkira and households living in ISETs more commonly had unmet nutrition needs. In both cases, the difference could be attributed to disparity across the Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) of young children (6-23 months).

## Protection

**Both non-displaced conflict affected households (60%) and non-displaced drought affected households (43%) had significantly higher proportions of households with unmet Protection needs** than any of the displaced populations (35%). The biggest driver of this difference was households reporting children in the community being in need of psychological or social wellbeing support with no such services being available. Rather than a lower rate of psychological needs among children of displaced households, this may indicate that as households displace, they tend to select urban locations, which are commonly better serviced by psychological or social wellbeing support services.

**Regionally, households in the South-East (72%) and South (48%) were found to have unmet protection needs most often**, with GBV incidents affecting children and adults being a particular concern in both regions (42% and 27%, respectively). GBV incidents reported within HTR communities showed a similar geographic pattern, with more than one third of BSUs in the South and South East found to have cases of GBV in their communities within the 30 days prior to data collection, and significantly less in the HTR districts of other regions. Issues related to GBV may thus be a particular concern in the southern provinces and less related to the accessibility of areas within those provinces.

## WASH

At a national level, **76% of non-displaced drought affected households reported unmet WASH needs, compared to a 50% average across crisis affected and displaced households, highlighting the impact of the drought on water supply**. Recent IDP households (57%) were more likely to have unmet needs compared with non-recent IDP households (48%). This difference was driven primarily by one indicator - households' lack of access to improved latrines - which decreased from 29% for recent IDP households to 21% of non-recent IDP households. While the access to improved latrines may improve for displaced households over time, the assessment also found that there was a significantly higher proportion of female-headed households (30%) who reported not having access to an improved latrine, than male-headed households (21%).

Throughout the country, the regions with the highest proportion of households found to have unmet WASH needs were the West (60%), followed by the South (59%), North-East (56%), and North (55%) - mirroring the impact of the drought. **The HTR KIs furthermore indicated that populations in HTR districts have less access to improved water sources than households in accessible areas**, with the situation being the worst in the North (57% of BSUs), the West (53% of BSUs), and the North East (47% of BSUs).

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## List of Acronyms

<b>AFN</b>	Afghani (Afghan Currency)
<b>AHTRA</b>	Afghanistan Hard to Reach Assessment
<b>AOG</b>	Armed Opposition Group
<b>APC</b>	Afghanistan Protection Cluster
<b>BSU</b>	Basic Service Unit
<b>EiE</b>	Education in Emergencies
<b>ERW</b>	Explosive Remnants of War
<b>ESNFI</b>	Emergency Shelter and Non Food Items
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>FSA</b>	Food Security and Agriculture
<b>HH</b>	Household
<b>HCAWG</b>	Humanitarian Coordinated Assessment Working Group
<b>HNO</b>	Humanitarian Needs Overview
<b>ICCT</b>	Inter-Cluster Coordination Team
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>ISSET</b>	Informal Settlement
<b>ISSS</b>	Inter-Sector Severity Scale
<b>KII</b>	Key Informant Interview
<b>MDD</b>	Minimum Dietary Diversity
<b>NFI</b>	Non-Food Item
<b>NSAG</b>	Non-State Armed Groups
<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>PiN</b>	People in Need
<b>PPIED</b>	Pressure Plate Improvised Explosive Device
<b>SDR</b>	Secondary Data Review
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
<b>WoAA</b>	Whole of Afghanistan Assessment

## Geographical Classifications

<b>BSU</b>	Basic Service Units (BSU) are defined as geographical areas having common demographic and socio-economic features, and sharing services and facilities (water sources, health/education facilities, and/or a common market). BSUs have been identified and mapped as part of the Afghanistan Hard to Reach Assessment <sup>9</sup> and are otherwise not commonly used.
<b>District</b>	A pre-defined area within each province, identified by the government of Afghanistan.
<b>Province</b>	Highest form of official governance below the national level (see in Map 1 below).
<b>Region</b>	Unrecognised by the Government of Afghanistan but commonly used by the humanitarian community (see specific delineation in Map 1 below).

<sup>9</sup> REACH, Afghanistan Hard-to-Reach Assessment, 2018

**Map 1: Reference map of classification of regions throughout the assessment**

## Key Concepts

**Basic Service Unit** – A geographical catchment area in Hard to Reach areas surrounding basic services (e.g. water sources, hospitals, markets, etc.) in which populations rely on the same set of services.

**Hard to Reach** - A district can be considered Hard-to-Reach (HTR) from a security perspective or a terrain perspective - where remoteness or hostile terrain limit access. In practice, however, a district is considered HTR when active fighting poses a security risk for humanitarian workers and beneficiaries, or the presence of Armed Opposition Groups actively limiting access to the district through checkpoints or other constraints.

**Household** – A housing unit in which there is one clearly defined head, with all other individuals living within the boundaries of the housing unit. Members of the household typically share meals. The household can consist of multiple families and can include directly related and non-related members provided they are permanent residents at the time of interview.

**Household head** – The decision maker in the household; the primary decider regarding financial allocation, well-being of household members and movement decisions. They need not be the sole decision maker, provided they have the final say. While they need not be the primary breadwinner, in Afghanistan this is often the case.

**Recent IDP household** – A household forced to flee or leave their home due to persecution, war, violence or natural or human-made disasters and travel to (at least) a different district within Afghanistan, in the six months prior to interview.

**Non-Recent IDP household** – A household forced to flee or leave their home due to persecution, war, violence or natural or human-made disasters and travel to (at least) a different district within Afghanistan, more than six months prior to interview.

**Returnee household** – An Afghan household who previously fled its home to live in another country due to persecution, war, violence or natural or human-made disasters, typically but not always Pakistan or Iran, and has since returned to Afghanistan but not to their exact area of origin.

**Refugee household** – A non-Afghan household, forced to flee its country of origin due to persecution, war, violence or natural or human-made disasters, now residing within Afghanistan.

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## INTRODUCTION

After 17 years of continued crisis, Afghanistan remains one of the world's most complex humanitarian emergencies, driven by escalating conflict and a devastating drought with a precipitation deficit of more than 70% in the preceding year across almost two-thirds of the country<sup>10</sup>. The drought, in particular, resulted in high levels of forced displacement in 2018, with 263,000 new drought internally displaced persons (IDPs) and almost 290,000 conflict IDPs registered as of October this year<sup>11</sup>. Corresponding humanitarian needs for livelihoods and basic services are furthermore exacerbated by 702,000 refugee returns from Pakistan and Iran between January and October 2018 and the needs of 78,000 Pakistani refugees residing in south-east Afghanistan.<sup>12</sup> In addition to these groups, an increasing number of non-displaced populations require lifesaving humanitarian assistance, with a total of 3.3 million people found to face emergency levels of food insecurity in September 2018<sup>13</sup>.

Assisting many of the people in need remains a challenge with 62% of households reporting experiencing conflict in the 6 months prior to data collection and several of the drought-affected districts considered to be hard-to-reach.<sup>14</sup> The combination of all these factors impacted the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) resulting in the estimated number of people in need almost doubling compared to 2018. Throughout 2019, 6.3 million people are expected to need lifesaving assistance in Afghanistan, cutting across sectoral needs, including Education in Emergencies (EiE), Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ESNFIs), Food Security and Agriculture (FSA), Health, Nutrition, Protection, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

The Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA) provided one of the key comprehensive data sources for the 2019 HNO analysis. WoAA was designed as a multi-sectoral assessment to identify inter-sectoral needs where they exist and determine how they inter-relate across different geographic areas and population groups. The assessment covered needs relevant to all Clusters, in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, and, as the first assessment of its kind in Afghanistan, across 70 of the country's hard-to-reach (HTR) districts. The geographical and thematic scope of the assessment allowed the WoAA to provide the 2019 HNO with a comprehensive evidence base of inter-sectoral needs among vulnerable populations and different locations in Afghanistan, that contributed to OCHA's calculations of People in Need (PiN). Furthermore, the WoAA facilitated the first evidence base on how different sector-specific needs inter-relate and aggravate one another.

This Whole of Afghanistan (WoA) report aims to build on and complement the 2019 HNO and offer additional insights into sectoral and inter-sectoral unmet needs among vulnerable populations in Afghanistan. As the WoAA dataset was only one of several information sources for the 2019 Afghanistan HNO, this report aims to offer an analysis of additional indicators to provide a deeper understanding of drivers of humanitarian need among displaced and non-displaced populations in the different regions of Afghanistan. The report accordingly provides an overview of unmet needs aimed to extend the HNO framework, but does not include province-level findings of different sectoral indicators. Users interested in the unmet needs, vulnerabilities, and risks pertinent in individual provinces are best served by the WoAA factsheet booklet.

The first section of this report outlines the methodology of the WoAA, including its mixed-methods approach and corresponding sampling strategy, data analysis and limitations. Subsequently, the second section outlines the humanitarian profile of the crisis, identifying primary drivers, primary and secondary effects, and underlying factors, including vulnerability characteristics. Next, a section on inter-sectoral analysis provides an initial insight into the proportion of households facing unmet humanitarian needs in multiple sectors simultaneously and how these unmet

<sup>10</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Afghanistan Drought Contingency Plan, April 2018.

<sup>11</sup> OCHA, Overview of Natural Disasters: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/natural-disasters-0>

<sup>12</sup> OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2018.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> A district can be considered Hard-to-Reach (HTR) from a security perspective or a terrain perspective - where remoteness or hostile terrain limit access. In practice, however, a district is considered HTR when active fighting poses a security risk for humanitarian workers and beneficiaries, or the presence of Armed Opposition Groups actively limiting access to the district through checkpoints or other constraints.

needs interact and exacerbate one another. Lastly, the main section builds on the analysis of humanitarian needs from each of the seven Clusters in Afghanistan and assesses additional sector-specific indicators, disaggregated by population group and region. The report concludes with a summary of key assessment findings and a discussion on further steps towards and benefits of cross-sectoral analysis in a humanitarian context.

## METHODOLOGY

In early 2018, REACH, with the support of the Humanitarian Coordinated Assessment Working Group (HCAWG), conducted a detailed desk secondary data review (SDR), to determine the need for a multi-sector needs assessment and to indicate its potential scope and purpose. While the SDR identified several sector-specific assessments with a wide range of valuable technical information, it highlighted three key information gaps that stand in the way of effective integrated humanitarian response planning across Afghanistan. First, given their sectoral focus, existing data sources are commonly isolated, lacking any insight on how their findings relate to and potentially interact with any of the other sectors insights. Second, sector-specific assessments often focus only on the geographical areas that are most relevant to a Cluster's current work and mandate, such as drought-affected districts. Third, the scope of sector-specific assessments does not typically allow for generalisable findings on the humanitarian needs of particularly vulnerable groups, such as households with a female, disabled, or elderly household head.

In order to address these gaps and to provide an inclusive multi-sectoral evidence base that complements the technical findings of sector-specific assessments, OCHA commissioned the WoAA. The detailed SDR and close coordination with the HCAWG, including all national Clusters and OCHA, ensured that the WoAA research framework did not duplicate any on-going or completed assessments and aligned its indicators to facilitate longitudinal and comparative analysis where possible.

The WoAA was based on a mixed methods approach, including structured household-level interviews with displaced and host community households as well as semi-structured key informant interviews (KIIs) in hard-to-reach districts and follow-up focus group discussions (FGDs) in each province. In addition, a small sub-set of KIIs was conducted with health-care professionals to get a better understanding of trauma-related needs and vulnerabilities.

### Quantitative: Scope, Sampling, and Analysis

The household-level research design and questionnaire were developed in close coordination with the HCAWG, the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT) and OCHA to include indicators required to calculate humanitarian needs, across all relevant population groups and geographical locations in Afghanistan. Using Open Data Kit (Kobo Toolbox), the WoAA team conducted 22,135 structured interviews with displaced and host community households in accessible areas throughout all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, collected between 15 July and 28 August 2018. An overview of the household survey sampling strategy can be found in Annex 1. In 31 of the 34 of Afghanistan's provinces, the data collection was conducted by 16 national partner organisations, coordinated through the ACBAR twinning programme. The remaining 3 provinces (Faryab, Ghazni, and Wardak) were covered by REACH enumerators, of whom 20% were female.

The households were randomly sampled and stratified according to relevant population groups, including recent IDP, non-recent IDP, returnee, refugee, and host community households. Findings based on the household-level interviews are generalisable at the provincial level or, if disaggregated between the stratified population groups, at the regional level, with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. Furthermore, while not stratified in the sampling framework, the scope of the quantitative assessment was large enough to allow for generalisable findings and comparisons between key vulnerability characteristics at the national level, with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. These included findings on households with female, disabled, or elderly household heads as well as highly indebted households and households without access to a *tazkira*, the national identification card.

The proportions of households with unmet sectoral needs were calculated according to a pre-defined index of three humanitarian indicators for each sector. Annex 4 outlines this index for each Cluster. If a household was found to meet the criteria for either one of the three sectoral indicators, the household was determined to have an unmet sectoral need. All WoAA indicators were developed in partnership with each of the seven Clusters and agreed up with the ICCT in June 2018. For the WoAA report, the analysis focused on providing a comprehensive overview of the drivers of humanitarian needs at the regional and national levels, being able to disaggregate statistically significant findings between the stratified population groups and outlined vulnerability characteristics. Provincial level findings are included in the WoAA factsheet booklet. Weights for all stratified sub-groups were applied during

the analysis, based on population estimates. Finally, findings were triangulated with the SDR and qualitative assessment components. Unless otherwise specified the findings outlined in this report are statistically significant with a confidence level of 95% and a 5% margin of error.

## Qualitative: Scope, Sampling, and Analysis

The two qualitative elements, the KIIs and FGDs, provide a wider geographical scope and deeper understanding to the quantitative household level survey findings. Given that for security reasons, household-level surveys could only be conducted in accessible areas of the 34 provinces, the WoAA team conducted an additional 1,392 KIIs in 70 HTR districts, spread across 20 provinces. The key informant (KI) questionnaires were also administered using Open Data Kit and based on the household-level questionnaire, transforming the questions from the household to the community level. While this allowed for an insight into the needs and vulnerabilities of the population in the hard-to-reach areas and facilitated a comparison with the population in accessible areas, the qualitative nature of the KIIs only allows for indicative results that cannot be generalised to the population of inaccessible areas as a whole.

In total 1,392 KIIs were interviewed from 597 BSUs with at least 2 KIIs per BSU. KIIs were identified through snowballing from existing networks from previous assessments and purposively sampled, based on their knowledge of the community and research topic. KIIs were asked to report on the community within the boundaries of a basic service unit (BSUs), a geographic area having common demographic and socio-economic features, and sharing services and facilities; this demarcation of BSUs is designed to reflect their own community and of which the individual is likely to be knowledgeable.<sup>15</sup> Findings from the KIIs can commonly not be disaggregated, since KIIs were often asked to comment on the community of a BSU as a whole. Only a limited number of questions required KIIs to differentiate between men/women and population groups. Unless the KIIs were asked to specify population proportions within BSUs, the Hard-to Reach (HTR) findings were aggregated at the BSU level, generating one response per question per BSU. For instances where KIIs within a BSU provided different answers to a question, the most common response was selected. If there was not a clear common response, the response emphasizing unmet need was selected.

In addition, 143 KIIs were conducted in October 2018 with health-care specialists in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan to provide initial insights into trauma injuries and care in Afghanistan. The closed questionnaire, using Open Data Kit, was developed in coordination with the Health Cluster and all interviews, with questions from the province level, were conducted via phone. The KIIs were purposively sampled through existing REACH networks and government databases.

Lastly, 68 FGDs were conducted (2 per province) to provide insights into more sensitive topics, including gender based violence (GBV) and child protection, and to gain a better understanding of quantitative findings. To allow for the latter, the FGD questionnaire was developed in coordination with the HCAWG following a preliminary quantitative findings presentation, based on 60% of the WoAA household-level assessment. The semi-structured FGDs were based on 10 open-ended questions and consisted of approximately 6 to 8 participants. In each province, one FGD consisted of only male and the other of only female participants. In 33 of the 34 provinces, REACH was able to hire a female enumerator for the female FGD, Logar being the only exception. All participants were purposively sampled based on their knowledge of the different sectors, including teachers, health care specialists, and community leaders.

FGDs were analysed using NVivo software and an inductive approach, enabling themes to emerge directly from the participants' discussions.<sup>16</sup> The interpretation of data was guided by two key criteria: extensiveness and specificity.<sup>17</sup> Extensiveness refers to the number of respondents that raised a certain issue/theme, while specificity notes that detailed descriptions of experiences should be given more weight than general responses.

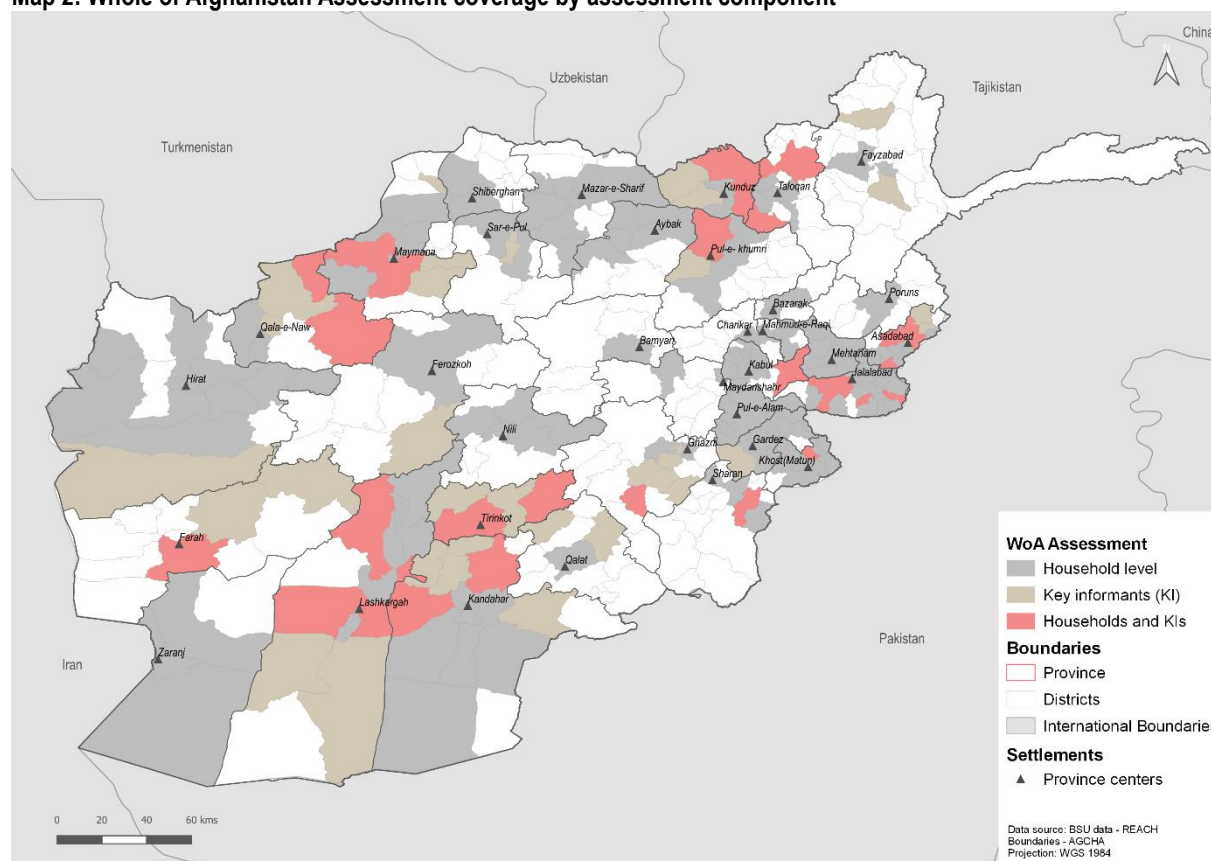
<sup>15</sup> For more information on the mapping and characteristics of BSUs see the Afghanistan Hard-to-Reach Assessment report (AHTRA).

<sup>16</sup> Boyatzis, R. (1998). *Transforming Qualitative Information*, Sage Publications.

<sup>17</sup> Krueger, R. (1994). *Focus Groups: A Practical Guide to Applied Research*, Thousand Oaks.



Map 2: Whole of Afghanistan Assessment coverage by assessment component



## Limitations

- The household-level assessment covered all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, but due to security concerns several districts were inaccessible. This presents a bias towards more secure locations in Afghanistan and may exclude some of the most vulnerable households in the quantitative findings. To mitigate this bias, the assessment conducted an additional 1,392 KIIs in 70 HTR districts.
- Several security incidents particularly restricted the access of national partner organisations in the West, which resulted in a significantly higher proportion of household interviews in urban areas than in other regions of Afghanistan. Readers are hence encouraged to triangulate the household-level findings from the West with the KIIs from the HTR districts in the West.
- Findings of the quantitative component relating to a subset of the population may have a lower confidence level than 95% and a wider margin of error than 5%.
- Data was collected throughout day-time hours, when household heads were typically working. Thus, some interviews may not have been conducted with the lead decision maker, though all efforts were made to come at a time when the household head would be available. If it was not possible to speak with the lead decision maker, the interview was conducted with the secondary decision maker in the household.
- It is possible that results are inflated in terms of needs, as respondents may have felt this would increase their likelihood of receiving assistance. To mitigate this, all household-level interviews were conducted in person and began with a clear explanation that the assessment does not guarantee any form of assistance.
- With household heads being predominantly male in Afghanistan, questions about the situation or concerns of women were commonly answered by male respondents (94%). The needs and vulnerabilities of women may accordingly be misrepresented. However, the scope of the assessment allowed for generalisable findings and comparisons between male and female-headed households at the national level. The

assessment was able to use the sex of the head of household as a vulnerability characteristic and thereby include the female-headed perspective in the needs analysis through the findings sections.

- The sensitive nature of some questions may have led to underreporting, particularly regarding issues and concerns specific to women and girls in the household. To address this, 33 of the 68 FGDs were conducted exclusively with female participants and enumerators, including more delicate topics that could not be raised with a male presence in the room.
- Findings from KIIs in the hard-to-reach districts are indicative only, as they rely on the knowledge of KIIs and are therefore informed perspectives and not comparable findings. Furthermore, the methodology was area-based and had no gender-disaggregation, potentially underreporting on gender-specific issues.
- The limited knowledge of KIIs about the day-to-day behaviour of individual households, prohibited meaningful HTR findings on Food Security and Agriculture (FSA) and Nutrition Cluster indicators. For both sectors, no comparative analysis to the accessible areas could be conducted.
- As the nutrition indicators only focused on households with children under the age of 24 months, the number of relevant household interviews remained limited. As a result, only the overall index of unmet nutrition needs returned statistically valid and significant results, while the individual three indicators did not.
- As the Nutrition and EiE unmet needs indicators were only focused on a certain subset of households (see annex 4), both sectors had a lower likelihood to be involved in inter-sectoral unmet needs pairings for the population as a whole. The inter-sectoral analysis of the unmet Nutrition and EiE needs must hence be interpreted alongside the limited subset either one refers to.
- Due to a misinterpretation and false implementation in the South and South-East, the Food Consumption Score (FSC) results, part of the FSAC unmet needs index, had to be removed in those two regions. In these regions, the FSAC needs are hence likely higher than represented here.
- The stratified population groups of the WoAA are not identical to the vulnerable population groups based on which the 2019 Afghanistan HNO calculated the sectoral and national People in Need (PiN) figures. As the WoAA sample was not stratified for non-displaced conflict affected nor for non-displaced drought affected population groups, their humanitarian needs were calculated through proxy indicators and based on host community household interviews. Due to this, findings for non-displaced conflict affected and non-displaced drought affected population groups can also not be compared at a regional level with the outlined statistical significance of 95/5. The regional disaggregation of the findings was hence limited towards the stratified displaced population groups.

## FINDINGS

### Humanitarian Profile of the Crisis: Drivers, Effects, and Underlying Factors

This first section of the findings chapter provides an overview of the humanitarian profile of the current crisis in Afghanistan. The section outlines the primary drivers of the crisis, the recent drought and on-going conflict, and identifies its primary and secondary effects. It concludes with a wider analysis of underlying factors, including prevalent vulnerability characteristics in Afghanistan, which are further analysed in the following sections of this chapter.

#### Primary Drivers of the Crisis: Conflict and Drought

The two primary drivers of the crisis were found to be conflict and drought. Overall, 62% of households reported experiencing active conflict or violence in their community in the six months prior to the data collection. The three worst-affected provinces, in which almost all (96%-99%) households reported having experienced conflict or violence were Helmand and Uruzgan in the South and Ghazni in the Central region. However, high proportions of households in the South-East (89%), North-East (89%), East (76%) and North (74%) also reported conflict or violence in their communities, reaffirming that the Afghan population is held captive by conflict and/or violence.

Households located in rural areas were particularly exposed to conflict and violence (66%) as compared to urban areas (56%), as well as households in ISETs (71%), compared to other locations (61%). Significantly higher proportions of displaced households (72% of IDP and 63% of returnee households) reported incidences of conflict or violence in their communities in the preceding six months, than host community households (48%). Most of these events are likely not related to an overarching conflict between state and non-state armed groups, as these would affect the population groups more equally (given their close geographic proximity). Instead, these proportional differences in conflict/violence incidents more likely highlight localised conflicts/disputes due to a lower social cohesion in settlements of displaced populations. Only in the South-East were host community households and displaced households equally likely to have experienced conflict or violence in the six months prior to this survey.

Unlike conflict, the drought equally affected host and already displaced population groups. Overall, 8% of households reported that their livelihoods were affected by the drought in the six months preceding data collection. Regionally, the impact of the drought varied, with 45% of households in the West reporting that their livelihoods were affected by the drought, compared to only 2% in the Eastern region. The North also had elevated reports by households of drought affecting their livelihoods in the six months prior to data collection (23% of households). Indeed, in both regions host communities had the highest proportion of households, whose livelihoods were affected (61% in the West and 29% in the North).<sup>18</sup>

The extent of the drought is reaffirmed by the finding that KIs reported that households in all HTR BSUs were affected by the drought in the six months preceding data collection. In terms of conflict, the KIs in HTR districts in the South (96% of BSUs), Capital and Central Highlands (87%), and East (86%) reported some of the highest instances of conflict. In the following provinces, over 95% of BSUs were reported to have experienced conflict in the last six months: Ghor, Khost, Zabul, Hilmand, Kandahar, Farah and Uruzgan. The occurrence of conflict in rural and urban BSUs differed across regions. While in the Capital and Central Highlands region the urban areas were more conflict affected (28% vs 10% of BSUs) as well as the North Eastern region (21% vs 9% of BSUs), in the South-East and West rural HTR areas were more conflict prone (South-East 25% of urban BSUs vs 55% or rural BSUs and in the West 12% or urban BSUs vs 49% of rural BSUs).

#### Primary Effects of the Crisis

The two-fold nature of the Afghan crisis means that there are a wide variety of primary effects felt by the population. For those experiencing conflict, four primary effects have been identified: destruction of shelter, damage and closure of health facilities, damage and closure of education facilities, and physical injuries. For those impacted by the drought, the primary effects can be classified into two categories: food security and WASH.

<sup>18</sup> For more information on the impact of the drought and the proposed response see OCHA, Afghanistan 2018-2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, 2018

Of the households that had experienced conflict, at the time of questioning 35% stated that there had been damage to shelter within the past six months due to conflict with 8% of households stating that damage was significant and some even unlivable (2%). Almost half (49%) of the households reporting significantly damaged and fully destroyed shelters due to conflict were located in the East.

Destruction was not only confined to household structures; there was significant impact on health facilities as well. Health facilities usually attended by household members being permanently or temporarily damaged, or closed as a result of conflict, within the 12 months prior to data collection, were reported by 22% of households nationally. Much like the reports of shelter damage, 39% of the households reporting this occurring were located in the East. In addition to health facilities, 3% of all households, 72% of which were located in the East, stated that they were aware of an education facility within walking distance that is permanently closed due to conflict. Beyond facility damage, many people reported personal injuries from conflict. Of households surveyed, 4% stated that at least one household member had been physically injured by conflict in the last six months. Of the households that reported at least one household member injured due to conflict, 59% were located in the North-East, particularly in the provinces of Kunduz and Takhar.

For households affected by the drought, the primary effects were in the food security and WASH sectors. Of households who were affected by the drought and whose main source of income was livestock, 15% noted that livestock had died, another 13% stated that livestock became ill, and 12% that livestock were producing less in the six months prior to this survey. Of households who were affected by the drought and whose main source of income was agriculture, 43% highlighted a loss of more than 50% in agricultural production in the six months prior to this survey. The WASH effects noted were primarily damage to water sources within their community over the course of six months prior to this survey, as reported by 41% of households affected by the drought.<sup>19</sup> Of the households reporting damaged water sources, the majority (56%) lived in the West.

In hard-to-reach areas, conflict was found to have had a comparable effect on shelter and health facilities to conflict affected accessible areas. KIs reported that in 7% of BSUs more than 20% of their communities had shelter significantly destroyed due to conflict or natural disaster and for 25% of BSUs KIs reported health facility temporarily damaged or closed. However, education facilities seemed to be more often affected in HTR areas, with KIs highlighting schools closed to conflict in 26% of BSUs. In terms of the drought, HTR areas were found to have been some of the worst affected. In 69% of BSUs, more than a quarter of the community reportedly had livestock producing less, 61% of BSUs had more than 25% of the community with livestock falling ill and 38% of BSUs had more than 25% with livestock dying.

## Secondary Effects of the Crisis

The largest secondary effect of the crisis in Afghanistan is displacement. The WoAA found that nationally the primary reason given for displacement was active conflict (68%). This was true across all population groups and regions. Between January and October 2018, 550,000 people were internally displaced and an additional 713,000 people returned from Iran and Pakistan.<sup>20</sup> Anticipated conflict was given as a primary reason for displacement by an additional 16% of displaced households. However when examining the reasons for displacement by region, patterns emerged.

In the East, the proportion of displaced households that stated active conflict as the main reason for their forced movement was 83%, compared to only 50% in the West. In contrast, 21% of displaced households in the West noted natural disaster as their main reason for displacement, compared to 7% of displaced households nationally. This reflects the impact of the recent drought, which has been concentrated in the West, and related internal displacement.

<sup>19</sup> The original questionnaire, prepared in English, asked whether water sources were damaged. The intention for this question was primarily related to damage from conflict; however, the findings clearly note that the assessed households interpreted damage to water sources to be inclusive of drought effects on water sources, such as running dry. Further investigation revealed that the Dari and Pashto translations of this question would have been interpreted this way.

<sup>20</sup> OCHA, Afghanistan 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2018



Although both aspects of the current crisis resulted in displacement, the type of crisis influenced where households displaced, as well as the overall displacement pattern. While 48% of natural disaster affected households reported having crossed district boundaries during their recent displacement, 39% of conflict affected households reported the same. Similar differences were found at the provincial level (31% and 22% respectively). This shows that natural disaster affected households often displace further. This may be due to natural disasters, such as the current drought in the West, tending to have a wider geographic impact, perhaps necessitating a further move to escape the effects as compared to conflict, which can be quite targeted.

However, the population group that reported having moved the furthest were those that fled from anticipated conflict, with 29% of households having crossed regional boundaries, compared to 12% of households that fled from natural disaster and 11% of active-conflict displaced households. Households that displace pro-actively from conflict may not be able to determine the scope and location of the anticipated violence, making further displacement necessary to ensure safety.

The conflict and drought also had clear effects on the economic security of households. Households that reported having experienced conflict in the six months prior to data collection, were found to earn on average 15% less per household member in the previous 30 days than households that did not experience conflict or violence (AFN 968 [USD 13] / AFN 1,138 [USD 16]).<sup>21</sup> Some of this difference may, however, be attributed to displacement linked to conflict, as conflict-affected non-displaced households were found to have a 11% lower income than other non-displaced households (AFN 1,074 [USD 15] / AFN 1,212 [USD 17]). Drought had an even stronger impact on earning, with affected households having an income per household member 20% lower than households not affected by the drought (AFN 837 [USD 12] / AFN 1,049 [USD 15]). In this instance, displacement did not worsen the income gap, but may have functioned as a negative coping mechanism, as non-displaced drought-affected households had the lowest reported income and earned on average 33% less per household member than other non-displaced households (AFN 796 [USD 11] / AFN 1,186 [USD 16]).

Analyzing the level of household debt per household member, the assessment found almost no difference between drought-affected non-displaced households and other non-displaced households. However, conflict-affected non-displaced households, on average, had 20% more overall debt per household member than other non-displaced households. This may be due to common price increases in conflict-affected areas, given access and supply route difficulties.

Drought and conflict also have an effect on the already chronic food insecurity situation in Afghanistan, independent of displacement status. Of non-displaced conflict-affected households, 65% were found to have a poor food consumption score (FCS), compared to 58% of other non-displaced households. For non-displaced drought-affected households, this proportion rose to 70% compared to 60% of other non-displaced households.

### Underlying Factors of the Crisis

The protracted crisis in Afghanistan, which has roots well beyond the current escalation of conflict, includes a range of contextual and structural elements, such as poverty and socio-economic inequalities. Indeed, when asked about their primary concerns, the two most common responses of households were economic concerns (94%) and unemployment (87%). These were the two most common concerns for all population groups and in all regions of Afghanistan. Variation, across regions and population groups, was only found for the third most common concern.

For all displaced population groups, conflict or conflict-related violence was the third most common concern mentioned; whereas, host communities were more concerned with deteriorating infrastructure. In the East and the South, conflict/conflict-related violence were most identified, while in the North-East and South-East, it was deteriorating infrastructure. For populations in the West it was environmental change (i.e. the drought). For populations in the Central regions, poor power or fuel supply were most commonly mentioned.

While largely a result of the crisis, these economic concerns re-produce and interact with the humanitarian crisis and its effects. When asked about secondary reasons for displacement, 42% of IDP households stated that they

<sup>21</sup> On 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2018, the official exchange rate was AFN 72.2 for USD 1, see <http://dab.gov.af/en/DAB/currency>. This exchange rate is applied throughout the report.

also sought economic opportunity with their otherwise forced movement. Economic opportunities often played an important role in the North East (69% of IDP households) and the South (64% of IDP households), while they were less common in the East (16% of IDP households). For returnee households in the West, 60% stated that poor economic opportunities abroad forced them to return, compared to only 3% of returnee households in the East and 6% in the South-East. This is likely related to the recent drop in the value of the Iranian Rial, pushing refugee households that previously sent remittances back to Afghanistan to return (most commonly to the western parts of the country).

Economic interests, as an underlying concern, also shape the overall displacement pattern within Afghanistan. A significantly higher proportion of households that reported economic opportunities as a secondary reason for displacement, displaced across province borders (37% compared to 25%) and even regions (18% compared to 12%). Given Kabul's status as the economic powerhouse of Afghanistan, it is hardly surprising that most regional border crossings end up in the Capital or Central Highlands. Indeed 48% of the IDP households in the Capital or Central Highlands had their previous home in a different region, while 0% of the IDP households in the East reported having displaced from a different region. Households that reported economic opportunities as secondary reasons for displacement were also significantly more likely to displace to an urban or peri-urban setting than households that did not consider economic opportunities (74% compared to 54%).

Aside from poverty and the pull factor of economic opportunities, another important contextual factor in the crisis is the humanitarian community and response itself. In this regard, it is interesting to note that in the West 20% of IDP households stated that a secondary reason for their movement was seeking humanitarian assistance, compared to 1%-4% of IDP households across the other regions. This may be related to the recent humanitarian drought response in Herat, potentially drawing in drought-affected households from neighbouring provinces, such as Badghis and Ghor. This finding requires further research in similar contexts.

Some of the most vulnerable households subject to the combination of disaster, structural factors, and social factors, include female-headed households, elderly-headed households, households with disabled household heads, households living in informal settlements (ISETs), and households without any member holding a *tazkira*, the national identity documentation.

In line with previous assessments, the WoAA found that 6% of households were female-headed, which was stable across all population groups. Female-headed households were found to have lower levels of economic resilience, given that they, on average, had 44% less savings per household member than male-headed households and 28% more overall debt per household member (AFN 5,658 / AFN 4,450). Female education and skilled employment remains a challenge in many parts of Afghanistan, leaving women with few opportunities that are, at best, unskilled and unstable. As reported in the FGDs, due to conflict and/or drought, profit-making opportunities for women have been further restricted, with one female respondent from Jawzjan stating: "A lot of women clean or repair carpets and earn from it but because of natural disasters and war people don't order carpets anymore. Selling and buying have decreased."

The WoAA found that 11% of the households were headed by a person with a physical or mental disability that affects the household's daily life. Similarly to the female-headed households, households with a disabled household head were significantly less economically resilient to shock. These households reported 15% less income per household member than other households in the 30 days prior to data collection (AFN 890 / AFN 1,047), 34% less savings per household member (AFN 104 / AFN 157), and 31% more debt per household member (AFN 5,746 / AFN 4,396). The disability of the household head likely prevents him/her to obtain stable employment and hence on average leads to less income and more debt for the household at large.

Elderly headed households comprised 6% of the households. As with the previous groups, elderly headed households were more vulnerable than other households along economic criteria. On average, they earned 13% less income per household member in the previous 30 days (AFN 901 / AFN 1,041) and 18% more overall debt per household member (AFN 5,279 / AFN 4,473). Yet, elderly households reported comparable savings to other households. This may be due to elderly household heads no longer being able to conduct their previous profession or labour, leaving the household with less income and relying on previous savings, if any existed in the first place.

Elderly households also tend to be larger than other households with members from many different generations, opening them to a wider range and likelihood of sectoral needs.<sup>22</sup>

While the proportion of households that did not hold a single tazkira was found to be limited (2%), they were the least economically resilient. Households without a tazkira reported having earned 16% less income per household member in the 30 days prior to the assessment (AFN 863 / AFN 1,033) and reported 54% less savings per household members (AFN 71 / AFN 153). Most drastically, households without a tazkira reported more than double the overall debt per household member than other households (AFN 10,085 / AFN 4,474). The lower economic resilience may be due to the common requirement of an official identification card for many formal employment opportunities, which members of households without a tazkira may hence have no access to.

The combination of all of these factors in addition to the primary and secondary effects experienced by the population have resulted in a wide variety of unmet needs in all sectors. The relationship between these unmet needs, in particular how they aggravate and build off each other, is essential for all humanitarian actors in Afghanistan.

## Inter-sectoral Analysis

### Population Groups with Unmet Needs by Sector

Nationally and across all population groups, the highest proportion of households had unmet needs in the FSAC sector (76%), followed by WASH (50%) and ESNFI (50%).<sup>23</sup> The reason ESNFI needs feature significantly higher than in the 2019 HNO, is likely the report's inclusion of non-recent IDP households, who often displaced away from protection issues such as conflict and closer to urban centers with health facilities, but remain in challenging shelter conditions. When comparing across the population groups, all but refugees and non-displaced drought affected were found to have the highest proportion of households with unmet needs in the FSAC sector. For refugee households the most common unmet need was in the ESNFI sector, while for the non-displaced drought affected population it was WASH.

Given that at least half of the households of all population groups were found to have unmet needs in at least one of these three sectors, these are also the sectors that are most probable to overlap and interact with each other. The following will now assess to what extent households do indeed have multiple unmet needs at the same time and which combination of unmet needs are most common.

**Table 1: Percentage of households with unmet sector needs, by population group**

Sector	EiE	ESNFI	FSA	Health	Nutrition	Protection	WASH
Non-displaced conflict affected	21%	33%	76%	49%	26%	43%	50%
Non-displaced drought affected	27%	31%	67%	36%	21%	60%	76%
Non-Recent IDP	19%	58%	76%	31%	26%	36%	48%
Recent IDP	19%	57%	79%	30%	23%	34%	57%
Returnee	15%	42%	74%	34%	22%	34%	51%
Refugee (South-East)	61%	92%	66%	61%	46%	69%	82%
Total (excl. refugee)	19%	50%	76%	36%	25%	38%	50%

### People with Unmet Needs in Multiple Sectors

It is important to assess regions and populations with a cross-sectoral lens to identify those that have high proportions of households with unmet needs in multiple sectors at a time. This provides important insights into

<sup>22</sup> The WoAA found that elderly households have on average 28% more households members than other households, in line with previous findings from REACH, Protection Assessment of Conflict-Affected Populations, 2018

<sup>23</sup> See Annex 4 on the indicators that determined if a household was classified to have an unmet need in a specific sector.

groups where humanitarian needs and conditions are likely most severe. Where a high proportion of the population have unmet needs in many sectors, such as in three or more at the same time, conditions may be particularly challenging.

Overall, the inter-sectoral analysis found that 60% of the households from the population groups reported unmet needs in three or more sectors simultaneously. This finding clearly supports the strategic direction of the humanitarian community towards more integrated response frameworks. The refugee population had the highest proportion of households that were categorised as having unmet needs in multiple sectors (3+) at once. However, it is important to consider the relative small size of this population and concentrated geographic coverage as compared to other stratified population groups. Of the other population groups, non-displaced drought affected households were found to have a significantly higher proportion of households with three or more unmet needs simultaneously (70%). The humanitarian community may hence want to target or pilot its integrated humanitarian response efforts towards refugee and non-displaced drought-affected populations, as is currently planned to be done through a pilot project in Badghis province.<sup>24</sup>

**Table 2: Percentage of households found to have multiple unmet needs simultaneously, by population group**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	3+ Needs
Non-displaced conflict affected	15%	18%	25%	21%	12%	3%	1%	62%
Non-displaced drought affected	7%	22%	37%	18%	6%	4%	4%	70%
Non-recent IDP	13%	23%	27%	22%	9%	3%	0%	61%
Recent IDP	13%	22%	28%	20%	9%	4%	2%	62%
Refugee (South-East)	7%	13%	16%	11%	11%	14%	27%	79%
Returnee	17%	22%	30%	17%	7%	2%	0%	57%
Total (excl. refugee)	14%	22%	27%	20%	9%	3%	1%	60%

Geographically, the highest proportion of households with three or more sectoral needs simultaneously were found in the South East (70%), North (68%), and South (65%). Both the South and South East are among the worst affected by conflict and chronic food insecurity and while the drought did not have as strong of an impact as in the western provinces, both regions felt its effects.<sup>25</sup> The North was equally impacted by the drought and at the time of the assessment experienced large-scale violent protests, which raised protection needs and impeded access to basic services.<sup>26</sup> Given the previously outlined limitations of household level data collection in the West, the reported proportion of 53% is in all likelihood underestimated.

<sup>24</sup> For more information see OCHA, Afghanistan 2018-2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, 2018

<sup>25</sup> See OCHA, Afghanistan 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2018 for a geographic comparison of the severity of multi-sectoral needs

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/04/world/asia/afghanistan-militia-faryab.html>

**Table 3: Percentage of households found to have multiple unmet needs simultaneously, by region**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	3+ needs
Central	26%	26%	23%	15%	5%	1%	0%	43%
East	10%	26%	31%	22%	8%	2%	0%	64%
North	7%	23%	35%	21%	10%	3%	0%	68%
North East	16%	16%	23%	20%	12%	6%	2%	62%
South	11%	16%	21%	25%	15%	2%	1%	65%
South East	10%	18%	29%	29%	8%	2%	2%	70%
West	14%	29%	32%	14%	5%	1%	0%	53%
Total	14%	22%	27%	20%	9%	3%	1%	60%

In terms of vulnerable population groups, households without a tazkira were the most likely to have unmet needs in multiple sectors. The WoAA found that 80% of households without a tazkira faced three or more unmet needs simultaneously, while only 56% of other households noted the same. Similarly, a significantly higher proportion of households with a disabled household head was found to have multiple (3+) unmet needs (62%), compared to other households (55%). Lastly, households living in rural areas (54%) were more likely to have three or more unmet needs at the same time than those living in urban areas (44%).

### Inter-Sector Linkages

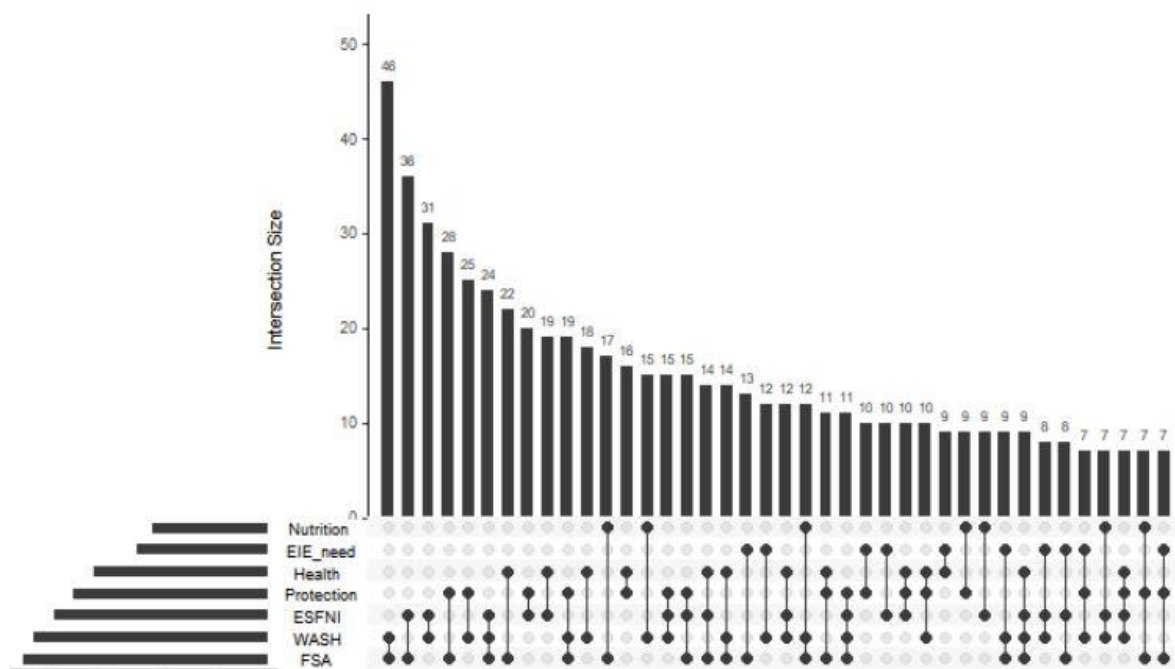
In order to allow for a strategic integrated humanitarian response, it is necessary to identify the specific pairings or combinations of sectors in which high proportions of households were found to have unmet needs simultaneously. Given the different profile of humanitarian needs of displaced and non-displaced households (see table 2), the following assesses inter-sector linkages for displaced households, non-displaced conflict-affected, and non-displaced drought-affected households separately.

### Displaced Population

As highlighted in the bottom left of figure 1, the three sectors that most commonly overlapped with other sectors, in terms of unmet needs of displaced households (IDPs and returnees), were FSA, WASH, and ESNFI. In other words, the majority of displaced households that faced more than one unmet sectoral need at the same time, faced unmet needs in at least one of those three sectors. The prevalence of these three sectors for displaced populations is likely due to the fact that about half of all IDP households displaced as a result of the drought in 2018.<sup>27</sup> In contrast, unmet Nutrition and EiE needs were least often part of displaced households' inter-sector unmet needs pairings.

<sup>27</sup> OCHA, Afghanistan 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2018



**Figure 1: Percentage of displaced households (IDPs and returnees) with inter-sector unmet needs**

However, it is important to understand the exact meaning of figure 1, the reasons why some sectors feature less prominently, and how figure 1 can be used to inform humanitarian programming. As noted, figure 1 highlights the prevalence of unmet sector needs pairings or combinations, across all displaced households. So, for instance, figure 1 shows that of all unmet sector needs pairings, the most common one for IDP and returnee households was FSA-WASH, with 46% of all IDP and returnee households found to have unmet needs in both sectors simultaneously. The second most common pairing, affecting 36% of all displaced households, was FSAC and ESNFI. If we are interested in how common the combination of unmet needs in all three of these sectors was, figure 1 tells us that 24% of all displaced households faced unmet ESNFI, WASH, and FSAC needs. The humanitarian community can accordingly use the information of figure 1 to prioritise certain sector combinations for an integrated response to displacement, as it shows which unmet needs combinations are most prevalent in Afghanistan for displaced households.

From an individual Cluster perspective, figure 1 furthermore indicates which other Clusters to prioritise for coordination and engagement. For instance, for Nutrition, figure 1 highlights that households with unmet nutrition needs most commonly also faced unmet FSAC and WASH needs. Indeed, from a Nutrition Cluster perspective, even the combination of unmet needs between all three sectors simultaneously was more common (12%) than any other needs pairing between Nutrition and another sector.

However, what figure 1 does not directly show is the extent to which a Cluster's unmet needs overlap with other unmet sectoral needs, taking the initial unmet needs as the baseline. In other words, the graph highlights that overall 17% of displaced households had unmet Nutrition and FSAC needs at the same time, but does not note the proportion of households that have FSAC unmet needs, of those households that already have unmet Nutrition needs. For instance, if we consider the subset of displaced households that have unmet Nutrition needs (instead of all IDP and returnee households), we would find that 74% of households from this subset also have unmet FSAC needs.

From a Cluster perspective, figure 1, should hence be interpreted alongside the overall occurrence of the Cluster's unmet needs for displaced households. For Nutrition, the 17% of displaced households that reported both Nutrition and FSAC needs at the same time, should be read in relation to the 25% of displaced households that reported Nutrition needs overall, indicating a very strong overlap and interaction between the two sectors.<sup>28</sup> From a Nutrition

<sup>28</sup> Due to the required weighting of the dataset and analysis, this proportion is 74% and not 68%.

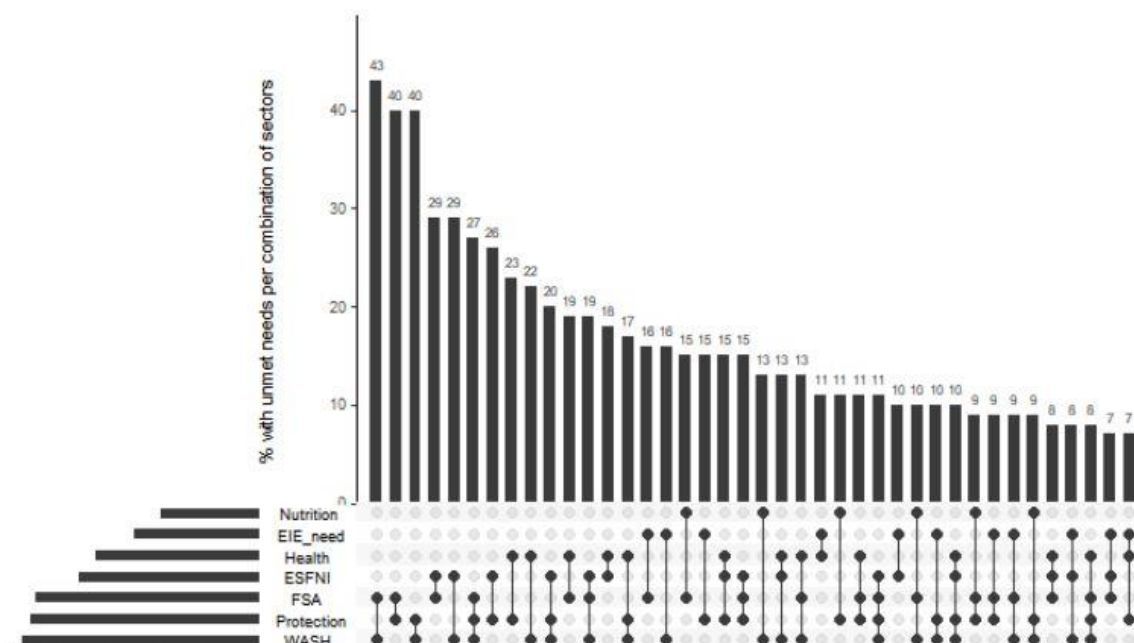
perspective, figure 1 accordingly notes the value for engaging and coordinating with the FSAC as well as WASH sector when planning Nutrition response activities for displaced populations.

Overall, figures 1-3 are most easily interpreted at a system-wide level, identifying the most common unmet needs combinations, but they have to be read carefully from an individual Cluster perspective. If figures 1-3 show that an individual Cluster was less likely than another to be involved in inter-sector unmet needs combinations, it does not mean that coordination and integration with other Clusters is less important to the strategic programming of that individual Cluster. This clarification is most important for the EiE and Nutrition Clusters, as households had a generally lower probability to have unmet needs in either sector, due to the specific sectoral indicators informing unmet needs (see Annex 4). For a household to have the potential of an unmet EiE need it had to have school-aged children and for a household to have the potential of an unmet Nutrition need it had to have newborns or young children (<24 months). While the system-wide likelihood of unmet EiE or Nutrition needs to be involved in inter-sector unmet needs pairings is hence necessarily lower, it does not mean that unmet EiE or Nutrition needs are less likely to overlap with other sectoral needs by themselves.

### Non-displaced Drought Affected Population

As figure 2 highlights, for non-displaced drought affected households, the ESNFI sector was replaced by Protection, rendering WASH, Protection, and FSAC the three sectors that most commonly overlapped with other sectors, in terms of unmet needs. Each of the three sector pairings of unmet WASH-FSA, FSA-Protection, or WASH-Protection needs affected at least 40% of the non-displaced drought affected households, while the combination of all three unmet sector needs affected 27%. While Health featured less prominently than expected in figure 2, given the 2019 HNO reports of health concerns related to the drought,<sup>29</sup> it is important to note that water-borne disease was included as an unmet needs indicator for WASH and not Health (see annex 4). If the water-borne disease indicator would have been included for Health, the Health sector would have likely featured more prominently in the inter-sectoral analysis for non-displaced drought affected households.

**Figure 2: Percentage of non-displaced drought affected households with inter-sector unmet needs**

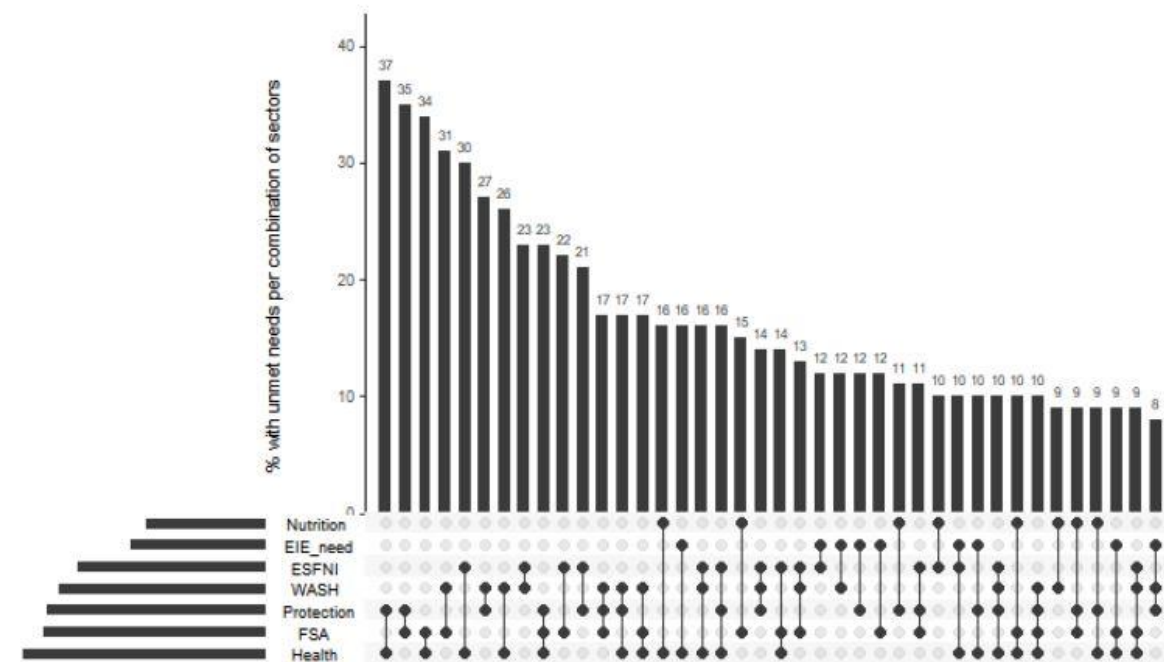


<sup>29</sup> OCHA, Afghanistan 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2018

## Non-displaced Conflict Affected Population

For non-displaced conflict affected households, the three sectors that most commonly overlapped with other sectors, in terms of unmet needs, were, in order of magnitude, Health, FSA, and Protection. The single most common pairing of unmet needs was Health and Protection, affecting 37% of the non-displaced conflict affected households, followed by Protection and FSAC (35%). The high prevalence of unmet Health needs may indicate the difficulty for populations in conflict-affected areas to access adequate health services.

**Figure 3: Percentage of non-displaced conflict affected households with inter-sector unmet needs**



## Sector-specific Needs

### Education in Emergencies

Education remains a key challenge in Afghanistan, with 3.7 million children estimated to not attend schools.<sup>30</sup> With schools closing due to damage or occupation in conflict affected areas and households removing children from school due to displacement or as a negative coping strategy, the Education in Emergencies working group (EiEWG) estimated half a million children as People in Need in 2019.<sup>31</sup> For a closer look at specific population groups and regional differences, the following section considered additional indicators to measure unmet needs (see Annex 4).

### Crisis Affected and Displaced Population Groups

Nationally, 19% of crisis affected and displaced households were found to have an unmet need in the education sector. Comparing between the different population groups, the WoAA found this proportion to be significantly higher for non-displaced drought affected households (27%). This difference was predominantly due to non-displaced drought affected households being significantly more likely to have to rely on their children working instead of going to school. In contrast to the 10% average across the population groups, 17% of non-displaced drought affected households reported at least one child going to work instead of school.

<sup>30</sup> Ministry of Education and UNICEF, Global Initiative on Out-Of-School Children – Afghanistan Country Study, 2018

<sup>31</sup> OCHA, Afghanistan 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2018

**Table 4: Percentage of households found to have an unmet EiE need, by population group**

Non-displaced Conflict Affected	Non-displaced Drought Affected	Non-recent IDP	Recent IDP	Returnee
21%	27%	19%	19%	15%

A geographic comparison highlights that in the North, a significantly higher proportion of displaced households (48%) were found to have unmet education needs, than the national average of displaced households (18%). This significant regional difference was mainly driven by children having to work instead of going to school and children having been removed from school in the 12 months prior to the assessment due to conflict or natural disaster. In contrast, displaced households in the East reported a different driver of unmet education needs. While in all other regions only 1-3% of displaced households reported education facilities within walking distance being closed due to conflict or natural disaster, 10% of displaced households reported the same in the East. This finding is in line with the reporting of education facilities being particularly targeted by an Armed Opposition Group (AOG) in the Nangarhar province in the East.<sup>32</sup>

**Table 5: Percentage of households found to have an unmet EiE need, by region**

Region	Non-recent IDPs	Recent IDPs	Returnees	Refugees	Total
Central	23%	16%	13%	N/A	20%
East	15%	18%	14%	N/A	15%
North	49%	35%	53%	N/A	48%
North East	21%	21%	18%	N/A	21%
South	16%	14%	13%	N/A	15%
South East	17%	62%	9%	61%	14%
West	5%	5%	6%	N/A	5%

Aside from the households in the North, populations groups that stand out as having high proportions of households with unmet education needs, are recent IDP (62%) and refugee households (61%) in the South East. The main driver of unmet needs for both groups was children reported to be working instead of attending school. These findings align with results from a previous assessment in 2018, which found that all three provinces of the South-East were among the five provinces of Afghanistan with “the highest proportion of households with at least one child economic contributor”.<sup>33</sup> Furthermore, this previous assessment found that 28% of refugee households had at least one child economic contributor, compared to 10% of Afghan displaced households nationwide.<sup>34</sup>

### Vulnerable Population Groups

Overall, the WoAA found no significant differences on households' unmet education needs, based on vulnerability characteristics of households. However, analysing the individual indicators or unmet needs, the WoAA found that both female-headed households (14%) and households with a disabled households head (14%), were significantly more likely to have school-aged children working instead of going to school (8% of male-headed households and 8% of households without a disabled households head). This may be due to women and disabled people having difficulty finding suitable employment opportunities in Afghanistan.

<sup>32</sup> INSO, 2018 Incident Reports [not publicly accessible]

<sup>33</sup> REACH, Protection Assessment of Conflict-Affected Populations (PACAP), 2018

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

**Table 6: Percentage of households found to have an unmet EiE need, by vulnerable population groups**

Population Groups	Female HHH	Male HHH	Disabled HHH	Non-Disabled HHH	Elderly HHH	Non-Elderly HHH
% HHs with unmet EiE need	20%	17%	20%	17%	18%	17%
Population Groups	HHs without Tazkira	HHs with Tazkira	HHs in ISET	HHs in Other Locations	Rural	Urban
% HHs with unmet EiE need	17%	19%	18%	15%	19%	17%

\* Proportions can only be compared within each vulnerability characteristic pairing and not across the whole table

### Hard-to-Reach Insights

The KIIs in HTR districts indicated a higher rate of unmet EiE needs in HTR areas, compared to accessible areas in Afghanistan. Overall, KIIs reported in 26% of BSUs that education facilities have closed due to conflict or natural disaster, compared to 5% of households in accessible areas reporting education facilities within walking distance being closed. In addition, in 14% of BSUs children aged 5-18 years were reported to have been removed from school in the year prior to data collection due to conflict or natural disaster and in 19% of BSUs KIIs noted that more than 20% of children were earning an income outside of the home instead of attending school.

Compared to the accessible areas, the KIIs from the HTR districts in the Capital and Central Highlands region as well as in the South indicate higher education needs. In both regions, KIIs reported school closures in 33% of the BSUs. Furthermore, in both regions KIIs also reported that in half of the BSUs (51% in the Capital and Central Highlands and 49% in the South) children aged 5-18 years were removed from school within the previous year due to conflict or natural disaster. Lastly, the situation in the West seems more difficult for children in HTR districts than accessible areas, given that in 68% of BSUs, KIIs reported children earning an income outside of the home, compared to 4% of households in the accessible areas. Overall, the KIIs indicate a need of the EiE working group to focus on and further investigate the needs of children in HTR areas.

### Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ESNFIs)

The 2019 HNO estimated that one million people will be in need of emergency shelter and basic non-food items, including kitchen sets, clothing, and heating for the winter. However, many of those who received immediate assistance, such as emergency shelter, will require medium- and longer-term solutions. With 61% of the recent 250,000 drought IDPs in the West stating that they have no intention to return to their area of origin, many households' displacement may become prolonged and protracted.<sup>35</sup> To take this factor into account and build on the ESNFI analysis for the 2019 HNO, the following section will include non-recent IDP households into its analysis and consider additional factors to assess unmet ESNFI needs (see Annex 4 for the indicator matrix).

### Crisis Affected and Displaced Population Groups

Overall, 46% of crisis affected and displaced households in Afghanistan were found to have unmet ESNFI needs. When disaggregating the population groups at the national level, IDP and returnee households were found to be significantly more likely to have unmet ESNFI needs, than households from either one of the non-displaced population groups. The primary driver for the difference in unmet ESNFI needs between displaced and non-displaced households was the proportion of households living in a tent, makeshift shelter, or open space. While 49% of non-recent, 47% of recent IDP households, and 32% of returnee households reported living in such conditions, 22% of the non-displaced drought or conflict affected households noted the same. This difference across this indicator furthermore indicate that returnee households seem to have better access to improved housing options than IDP households.

For non-displaced drought affected households, the main driver of unmet ESNFI needs was an unsustainable access to non-food items, with 28% stating that they had to rely on friends and relatives or humanitarian assistance to receive basic non-food items. Displaced households reported the same unsustainable access to non-food items

<sup>35</sup> DTM, Drought Response Return Intention Survey, 2019



in 19% of the cases. However, distinguishing between recent (24%) and non-recent IDP households (18%) for this indicator, indicates that the situation is worse for recently displaced households. This may further indicate that, over time, IDP households become less reliant on friends and relatives or humanitarian assistance as their main source of basic non-food items or instead that with continued displacement they lose the support from either source.

**Table 7: Percentage of households found to have an unmet ESNFI need, by population group**

Non-displaced Conflict Affected	Non-displaced Drought Affected	Non-recent IDP	Recent IDP	Returnee
33%	31%	58%	57%	42%

A regional comparison highlights that in the East (63%), North East (63%), and South (60%) significantly higher proportions of displaced households had unmet ESNFI needs, compared to the national average of displaced households (52%). With Nangahar province in the East being one of the two provinces worst affected by population displacement,<sup>36</sup> it is unsurprising that the predominant driver of unmet ESNFI needs in the East was households living in tents, makeshift shelter and open space. While this was also the main driver of unmet ESNFI needs in the South, a significantly higher proportion of displaced households in the South were found to rely on an unsustainable access to basic non-food items (28%), than the national average of displaced households (19%). This result is in line with the 2019 HNO finding that two of the provinces in the South were among the three provinces with the least access to basic services.<sup>37</sup> In the North-East, the main driver of unmet ESNFI needs was unsustainable access to NFIs, which may be influenced by households in the region higher needs for earlier and stronger winterisation support.<sup>38</sup>

**Table 8: Percentage of households found to have an unmet ENSFI need, by region**

Region	Non-recent IDPs	Recent IDPs	Returnees	Refugees	Total
Central	34%	36%	18%	N/A	29%
East	73%	86%	50%	N/A	63%
North	32%	36%	34%	N/A	31%
North East	66%	54%	55%	N/A	63%
South	65%	58%	42%	N/A	60%
South East	44%	93%	46%	92%	46%
West	22%	28%	19%	N/A	22%

Similar to the EiE findings, two population groups that stand out, aside from those in the East and South, were recent IDPs and refugees in the South-East. Indeed, both were found to have the highest proportions of households with unmet ESNFI needs. In both cases the predominant driver was the lack of appropriate shelter, which aligns with the finding from a previous assessment in 2018 that refugee households were found to have some of the highest protection concerns around 'Housing, Land, and Property'.<sup>39</sup> The significantly higher proportion of recent IDP households without appropriate shelter in the South-East, compared to most other regions, requires further analysis.

### Vulnerable Population Groups

The assessment found that all vulnerability characteristics were correlated with a significantly higher proportion of households with unmet ESNFI needs. The drivers of these unmet need differences, however, differed across vulnerable population groups. Households that lived in ISETs and urban areas as well as female headed households were significantly more likely to live in tents, makeshift shelters, and open areas than their counterparts, resulting in the significant difference of unmet ESNFI needs. In urban areas, lack of housing due to overcrowding may be the reason for this. In contrast, for households with an elderly or disabled household head or without any tazkira it was a mix between the lack of appropriate shelter and having to rely on an unsustainable source for basic non-food items.

<sup>36</sup> OCHA, Afghanistan 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2018

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> The Hindu Kush mountain range has its highest peaks in Afghanistan in the North-East.

<sup>39</sup> REACH, Protection Assessment of Conflict-Affected Populations (PACAP), 2018

**Table 9: Percentage of households found to have an unmet ESNFI need, by vulnerable population groups**

Population Groups	Female HHH	Male HHH	Disabled HHH	Non-Disabled HHH	Elderly HHH	Non-Elderly HHH
% HHs with unmet ESNFI need	60%	45%	51%	45%	52%	45%
Population Groups	HHs without Tazkira	HHs with Tazkira	HHs in ISET	HHs in Other Locations	Rural	Urban
% HHs with unmet ESNFI need	66%	46%	54%	46%	37%	45%

\* Proportions can only be compared within each vulnerability characteristic pairing and not across the whole table.

### Hard-to-Reach Insights

The KIIs in the HTR districts provided valuable information giving further context to unmet ESNFI needs in HTR areas of Afghanistan. However, in general, the KIIs did not indicate significantly higher unmet ESNFI needs in HTR areas compared to the crisis affected and displaced populations in accessible areas. For instance, while KIIs reported that in 23% of the BSUs the population mainly relies on friends, relatives or humanitarian assistance for their access to basic non-food items, 19% of the crisis affected and displaced population in the accessible areas reported the same. Similarly, in 27% of the BSUs, KIIs noted that at least 20% of the population lived in makeshift shelters or even tents or open spaces, while 36% of the crisis affected and displaced population reported the same.

The only region in which the KIIs indicated significantly higher unmet ESNFI needs in the HTR areas than for the crisis affected and displaced population in the accessible areas was in the West. Here, KIIs noted that in almost half of the BSUs (49%) the population relied mainly on unsustainable sources for basic non-food items (friends, relatives, or humanitarian assistance) and in the same proportion of BSUs at least 20% of the population lived in makeshift shelters or even tents or open space. These findings indicate that populations in the HTR districts of the western provinces of Badghis, Hirat, Ghor, and Farah were among the worst affected by the drought, with households having to displace even if only for short distance to gain access to drinking water and often having lost the majority of their agricultural/livestock income sources to pay for food and basic NFIs at local markets.

### Food Security and Agriculture

With 4.9 million people projected as People in Need in the 2019 HNO, Food Security and Agriculture was by far the sector with the highest needs. While chronic food insecurity is nothing new for Afghanistan, the severe drought has worsened the situation significantly in 2018<sup>40</sup>. The majority of the provinces are currently classified to be at least in Crisis (IPC phase 3), with three provinces (Kandahar, Baghdis, and Nuristan) even classified as a Phase 4 Emergency.<sup>41</sup> While the following relies on largely similar indicators as the 2019 HNO, it provides analysis of additional population groups and vulnerability characteristics and reaffirms the high unmet FSAC needs in Afghanistan (see Annex 4 for the indicator matrix).

### Crisis Affected and Displaced Population Groups

Throughout Afghanistan, the needs in food security and agriculture were very high with 76% of all crisis affected and displaced households reporting unmet FSAC needs. The assessment found that the primary driver for unmet FSAC needs across all population groups was a poor Food Consumption Score (FCS), measuring the quantity and variety of food consumed.<sup>42</sup> Unexpectedly, however, a significantly lower proportion of non-displaced drought affected households had a poor FCS (50%), compared to the national average of crisis affected and displaced households (64%). While this is certainly not in line with the common findings on the drought's impact on food

<sup>40</sup> IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, Report #10, October 2018

<sup>41</sup> OCHA, Afghanistan 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2018

<sup>42</sup> WFP VAM, Technical Guidance Sheet, Food Consumption Analysis, 2008

security,<sup>43</sup> it may be due to some of the non-displaced households still being able to cope with the negative effects of the drought. This may be supported by the finding that 29% of recent IDPs, many of which will have displaced due to the drought, were found to have a high reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) score, compared to 22% of non-displaced drought affected households. A higher proportion of recent IDP households had to accordingly rely on negative coping strategies significantly more often than non-displaced drought affected households.

**Table 10: Percentage of households found to have an unmet FSAC need, by population group**

Non-displaced Conflict Affected	Non-displaced Drought Affected	Non-recent IDP	Recent IDP	Returnee
76%	67%	76%	79%	74%

All but one region recorded more than half of displaced households experiencing unmet FSAC needs, though many measured significantly more than that. Due to previously outlined limitations regarding the FCS scoring in the South and South-East, the overall unmet FSAC needs in both regions were likely underestimated. Regionally, the highest unmet needs were found in the West, where 92% of all displaced households were classified as having unmet FSAC needs, which were predominantly driven by a poor FCS. This finding aligns with the recent displacement of more than 250,000 drought-affected IDPs displaced within the western provinces of Badghis and Hirat.<sup>44</sup>

**Table 11: Percentage of households found to have an unmet FSAC need, by region**

Region	Non-recent IDPs	Recent IDPs	Returnees	Refugees	Total
Central	78%	78%	74%	N/A	77%
East	84%	86%	78%	N/A	82%
North	44%	66%	50%	N/A	48%
North East	68%	78%	74%	N/A	69%
South	59%	44%	45%	N/A	53%
South East	67%	70%	70%	66%	68%
West	93%	95%	84%	N/A	92%

While the assessment failed to accurately measure the proportion of households with a poor FCS in the South and South-East due to a data collection error, a significantly larger proportion of displaced households with a high rCSI score in the two regions (46% and 65%, respectively), compared to the national average (25%), highlights the two regions' dire food insecurity. One example of negative coping mechanism accounted for by the rCSI indicator is restriction of consumption by adults in order for small children to eat; which was confirmed as a common practice in FGDs across the regions.

### Vulnerable Population Groups

Similar to the 2019 HNO, the WoAA found that rural households (73%) more commonly had unmet FSAC needs than urban households (62%). The primary driver of this difference is attributed to scores on the rCSI where 29% of households reported having adopted negative coping strategies compared to 19% of urban households. This suggests rural households have less means to effectively address food insecurity than their urban counterparts. Similarly, a significantly higher proportion of households living in ISETs had unmet FSAC needs, driven primarily by 38% of households living in ISETs having a high the rCSI score, compared to 24% of other households.

The highest proportion of households with unmet FSAC needs was found for households without a tazkira (91%), reaffirming their status as one of the most vulnerable population groups in Afghanistan. A significantly higher percentage of households without a tazkira were found to have a poor FCS (82%) than other households (61%), which may be explained by households lacking proper documentation reportedly facing difficulties in accessing assistance.

<sup>43</sup> FSAC & Government of Afghanistan, Emergency Food Security Assessment, 2018

<sup>44</sup> OCHA, Afghanistan 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2018

Other vulnerable populations proved more affected by different indicators. A higher proportion of female headed households (68%) had a poor FCS, compared to male-headed households (61%). In contrast, while a similar proportion of households with a disabled and non-disabled household head was found to have a poor FCS score, a significantly higher proportion of households with a disabled household head had a high rCSI score (32% compared to 24%), which indicates this group's difficulties in coping with food insecurity.

**Table 12: Percentage of households found to have an unmet FSAC need, by vulnerable population groups**

Population Groups	Female HHH	Male HHH	Disabled HHH	Non-Disabled HHH	Elderly HHH	< 65 years HHH
% HHs with unmet FSAC need	76%	74%	73%	74%	69%	74%
Population Groups	HH without Tazkira	HH with Tazkira	HH in ISET	Other	Rural	Urban
% HHs with unmet FSAC need	91%	74%	79%	72%	73%	62%

\* Proportions can only be compared within each vulnerability characteristic pairing and not across the whole table.

## Health

The Health Cluster estimated 1.9 million People in Need for 2019 in the recently published HNO.<sup>45</sup> In addition to an already overburdened health system, the Health Cluster noted active conflict, leading to mass casualty and increased trauma incidents, and the recent drought, leading to displacement and outbreaks of communicable diseases, as the main drivers of humanitarian needs. The following provides further detail on this, assessing additional population groups and indicators of unmet Health needs (see Annex 4 for the indicator matrix).

### Crisis Affected and Displaced Population Groups

When considering the stratified population groups' unmet health needs at the national level, non-displaced conflict affected households were considerably worse off than all others. A significantly higher proportion of non-displaced conflict-affected households was found to lack access to medication (26%), than the national average of the crisis affected and displaced households (18%). In addition, a higher proportion of non-displaced conflict affected households reported having members feeling unable to go to health facilities, due to them being prevented by armed groups or the journey or health facility being unsafe (24%), than the national average (17%). This may indicate that as populations displace, they tend to select locations that are better serviced by health centres. Furthermore, the disparity between the unmet needs among non-displaced conflict affected households (49%) and non-displaced drought affected households (36%) could be a consequence of the increase in threats and violence against healthcare aid workers in conflict-affected provinces such as Nangarhar (East), Farah (West), and Uruzgan (South).<sup>46</sup>

**Table 13: Percentage of households found to have an unmet Health need, by population group**

Non-displaced Conflict Affected	Non-displaced Drought Affected	Non-recent IDP	Recent IDP	Returnee
49%	36%	31%	30%	34%

There was great variation across the regions in terms of unmet health needs of the displaced population groups. The two regions with the largest proportion of displaced households with unmet health needs were the South-East (73%) and the North (53%). In the South-East the main driver of the unmet health needs was households reporting members feeling unable to go to health facilities, due to them being prevented by armed groups or the journey or health facility being unsafe (66%). In the North, only 25% of the displaced households shared this same concern. However, a significantly higher proportion of displaced households in the North reported that health facilities previously used by members remained closed or damaged due to conflict or natural disaster (25%), compared to

<sup>45</sup> OCHA, Afghanistan 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2018

<sup>46</sup> OCHA, Afghanistan 2018-2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, 2018

the national average of displaced households (13%). The findings for the North may have been influenced by the particular timing of the assessment, as it was conducted shortly after large scale violent protests in the region.<sup>47</sup>

These findings differ a bit from those of the Health Management Information System (HMIS), which determined that the populations most in need (not just displaced groups) were, from a health perspective, located in the South and North-East.<sup>48</sup> The WoAA findings, however, confirm that the proportions of displaced households with unmet health needs were significantly higher in the South and North-East than the national average. Given the previously outlined specific security limitations in the West for the household survey, data collection teams were limited to remain close to provincial capitals and other urban areas; this greatly reduced the expected unmet health needs for that region, making the Hard-to-Reach analysis essential to fully comprehend the unmet health needs there.<sup>49</sup>

**Table 14: Percentage of households found to have an unmet Health need, by region**

Region	Non-recent IDPs	Recent IDPs	Returnees	Refugees	Total
Central	7%	11%	4%	N/A	6%
East	34%	34%	26%	N/A	30%
North	56%	31%	51%	N/A	53%
North East	39%	35%	67%	N/A	46%
South	48%	46%	45%	N/A	43%
South East	69%	75%	80%	61%	73%
West	5%	4%	4%	N/A	5%

One population group whose unmet health needs stood out were the returnees in the North-East. This group was found to have a significantly higher proportion of households with unmet Health needs (67%), than any other displaced group in the region, only surpassed by displaced households in the South-East.. While the comparison with other population groups in the North East suggests that returnee households likely overstated their unmet health needs, the data affirms the HMIS finding that the north-eastern provinces of Kunduz and Takhar are among the provinces with the least access to primary health services.

### Vulnerable Population Groups

The proportion of households with unmet health needs was markedly higher for population groups living in rural areas (34%) than those living in urban areas (26%). This was true across all health indicators but the biggest difference was in households' perception of being unable to go to health facilities. While 22% of rural households reported that they were prevented from travelling to health facilities from an armed group or felt otherwise unsafe either travelling to or being in a health facility, 12% of urban households stated the same. This divide between rural and urban is likely to also drive the difference between female and male headed households. Female headed households were much less likely to be located in rural areas than male headed households (28% compared to 40%); thus, the lower occurrence of female headed households reporting unmet health needs may be more a reflection of the urban/rural divide than of female headed households having fewer unmet health needs overall. The same may explain why a lower proportion of households in ISETs reported unmet health needs, as ISETs often develop around urban areas, but further research is necessary to confirm this. Higher proportions of households without a tazkira reported unmet Health needs across all three Health indicators (see Annex 4).

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/04/world/asia/afghanistan-militia-faryab.html>

<sup>48</sup> Health Management Information System (HMIS), 2018

<sup>49</sup> On health needs in the West see also OCHA, Afghanistan 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2018



**Table 15: Percentage of households found to have an unmet Health need, by vulnerable population groups**

Population Groups	Female HHH	Male HHH	Disabled HHH	Non-Disabled HHH	Elderly HHH	< 65 years HHH
% HHs with unmet Health need	24%	33%	33%	32%	34%	32%
Population Groups	HH without Tazkira	HH with Tazkira	HH in ISET	Other	Rural	Urban
% HHs with unmet Health need	56%	32%	24%	33%	34%	26%

\* Proportions can only be compared within each vulnerability characteristic pairing and not across the whole table.

### Hard-to-Reach Insights

Overall, the HTR KIIs confirm the Health Cluster's concern in the 2019 HNO that the populations in HTR areas face some of the highest health-related needs. KIIs reported that the communities in 58% of BSUs lacked access to medication due to either conflict, unavailability in the local market, or damage to supply routes or storage facilities. In contrast, only 16% of households from the stratified populations groups faced this challenge in the accessible areas. In addition, KIIs in 40% of BSUs reported that health facilities were damaged or closed in the year prior to data collection as a result of conflict or natural disaster, compared to 12% of households in accessible areas.

Different regions were more strongly affected by different indicators. BSUs in the West (79%), according to KIIs, were the most affected by lack of access to medication. KIIs in 22% of BSUs in the West also reported closed or damaged health facilities in the year prior to data collection due to conflict or natural disaster, compared to only 1% of households in the accessible areas of the western provinces. However, the HTR areas that were reportedly worst off in this regard, were located in the South, where KIIs noted that 63% of BSUs had closed or damaged health facilities within the previous year due to conflict or natural disaster.

### Nutrition

According to the 2019 HNO, the primary drivers determining need for nutrition services were food insecurity, fragile health systems, and poor infant and young children feeding practices.<sup>50</sup> Critically, at the time of the HNO treatment services were only available in 53% of health facilities, due to lack of resources and capacity. This has resulted in elevated rates of severe and moderate acute malnutrition in children under five and pregnant and lactating women. These population groups represent the majority of the 2.1 million People in Need estimated for 2019.<sup>51</sup> The following section aimed to assess additional population groups and indicators to provide context and nuance; however, as the research design of the WoAA did not allow for anthropometric measurements, all its nutrition indicators were focused on infant and young child feeding practices (see Annex 4 for the indicator matrix).<sup>52</sup> This focus limits the generalisability of the individual percentage points. They can however still be analysed in comparison to identify geographical areas or population groups with heightened unmet nutrition needs.

### Crisis Affected and Displaced Population Groups

At a national level, the WoAA found that across the crisis affected and displaced population groups 25% of households had unmet nutrition needs. Furthermore, the assessment found no significant differences between individual population groups. The main driver of unmet nutrition needs across all population groups was households not providing the Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD), which measures the diversity of solid foods consumed by young children (aged 6-23 months) in the 24 hours prior to the assessment.

<sup>50</sup> OCHA, Afghanistan 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2018

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> WHO et al., Indicators for Assessing Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices, 2007

**Table 16: Percentage of households found to have an unmet Nutrition need, by population group**

Non-displaced Conflict Affected	Non-displaced Drought Affected	Non-recent IDP	Recent IDP	Returnee
26%	21%	26%	23%	22%

\* The findings on the non-displaced populations of Table 16 are not statistically significant due to a low number of interviews and should be interpreted as indicative only.

Regionally, a significantly higher proportion of displaced households in the central and western region were found to have unmet nutrition needs (42% and 32%) than the national average of displaced population groups (25%). In the West the higher proportion of households with unmet nutrition needs was, however, exclusively driven by the returnee population (predominantly from Iran). This particular finding on returnees in the West requires further analysis. The primary driver of unmet needs for all regions was the MDD indicator.

**Table 17: Percentage of households found to have an unmet Nutrition need, by region**

Region	Non-recent IDPs	Recent IDPs	Returnees	Refugees	Total
Central	43%	35%	39%	N/A	42%
East	24%	21%	19%	N/A	22%
North	31%	33%	20%	N/A	27%
North East	20%	16%	12%	N/A	18%
South	10%	14%	22%	N/A	12%
South East	15%	36%	12%	46%	15%
West	27%	24%	37%	N/A	32%

\* The findings of Table 17 are not statistically significant due to a low number of interviews and should be interpreted as indicative only.

As for the EiE and ESNFI sectors, two population groups that stood out in terms of unmet nutrition needs were recent IDPs and refugees in the South-East. With 46%, the refugee population had the overall highest proportion of households with unmet nutrition needs, while the 36% of recent IDP households in the South-East with unmet nutrition needs was still significantly above the national average of all households (25%). As before, the main driver of unmet nutrition needs for these population groups was households not providing the MDD for their young children (6-23 months).

### Vulnerable Population Groups

Looking at vulnerability characteristics, the assessment found that households without a single tazkira and households living in ISETs more commonly had unmet nutrition needs. In both cases the difference could be attributed to the disparity of the MDD of young children (6-23 months).

Against common perceptions, the assessment furthermore found that a significantly higher proportion of male-headed households had unmet nutrition needs than female headed households. However, given that child feeding is commonly the task of the women in the households, this difference may also be due to male household heads having less of an idea on the solid food intake of their young children (6-23 months) in the previous 24 hours. Further research in this regard is necessary.

**Table 18: Percentage of households found to have an unmet Nutrition need, by vulnerable population groups**

Population Groups	Female HHH	Male HHH	Disabled HHH	Non-Disabled HHH	Elderly HHH	Non-Elderly HHH
% HHs with unmet Nutrition need	14%	26%	27%	25%	24%	25%
Population Groups	HHs without Tazkira	HHs with Tazkira	HHs in ISET	HHs in Other Locations	Rural	Urban
% HHs with unmet Nutrition need	46%	25%	32%	23%	26%	24%

\* Proportions can only be compared within each vulnerability characteristic pairing and not across the whole table.

\*\* The findings of Table 18 are not statistically significant due to a low number of interviews and should be interpreted as indicative only.

## Protection

The Protection Cluster estimated that 2.4 million people will be in need in 2019, given an intensification of the conflict, the recent drought, and the deterioration of the protection environment in Iran resulting in an increased rate of returns to Afghanistan.<sup>53</sup> Furthermore, gender based violence risks heightened in the current crisis due to the intersection of conflict and displacement with socio-cultural practices that lead to discrimination on the basis of sex. In addition to physical safety, there are high risks to the psychological well-being of the population, particularly of children and their caregivers. The following aims to expand on the HNO figures and provide further nuance by assessing indicators on GBV and psychological needs of children alongside information on physical injuries caused by conflict or natural disaster (see Annex 4 for the indicator matrix).

### Crisis Affected and Displaced Population Groups

Overall, 38% of households of the crisis affected and displaced population groups were found to have unmet Protection needs. Significantly higher proportions of both non-displaced conflict affected households and non-displaced drought affected households had unmet Protection needs than any of the displaced populations. The biggest driver of this difference between displaced and non-displaced population groups was households reporting children in the community being in need of psychological or social wellbeing support with no such support services being available. While 53% of non-displaced drought affected and 37% of non-displaced conflict affected households noted this to be the case, 28% of displaced households stated the same. Rather than a lower rate of psychological needs among children of displaced households, this may indicate that as households displace, they tend to select more urban locations that are better serviced by psychological or social wellbeing support services (see also urban/rural divide in table 20 below).

The additional difference in unmet Protection needs between the non-displaced drought affected population and other population groups was due to a significantly higher proportion of non-displaced drought affected households reporting being aware of GBV incidents against adults or children occurring in their community in the 30 days prior to the interview (16%, compared to 7% across all population groups). As the GBV indicator includes negative coping mechanisms such as forced and exchange marriages, this may be a result of the precarious living conditions in the drought affected areas.<sup>54</sup>

**Table 19: Percentage of households found to have unmet Protection needs, by population groups**

Non-displaced Conflict Affected	Non-displaced Drought Affected	Non-recent IDP	Recent IDP	Returnee
43%	60%	36%	34%	34%

Regionally, the South-East, South, and North had the highest proportion of displaced households with unmet Protection needs. In all three regions, the main driver of the unmet Protection needs was households' reports of

<sup>53</sup> OCHA, Afghanistan 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2018

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

children requiring psychological support, with no support facilities being available in the community. Compared to the national average of displaced households (28%), a significantly higher proportion of displaced households in the East declared this to be the case as well (38%).

In addition to the above, a significantly higher proportion of displaced households in the South and South-East reported GBV incidents against adults or children in their community in the 30 days prior to the interview (42% and 27%, respectively), compared to the national average of displaced households (7%). This stark regional disparity is in line with the findings of a previous Protection assessment in 2018.<sup>55</sup>

**Table 20: Percentage of households found to have an unmet EiE need, by region**

Region	Non-recent IDPs	Recent IDPs	Returnees	Refugees	Total
Central	20%	22%	11%	N/A	17%
East	40%	37%	38%	N/A	39%
North	48%	48%	43%	N/A	46%
North East	38%	23%	34%	N/A	37%
South	49%	52%	52%	N/A	48%
South East	71%	81%	76%	69%	72%
West	24%	24%	34%	N/A	26%

A recurrent theme throughout the FGDs were the elevated protection concerns faced by women and children from within their families, such as domestic violence and forced marriage, attributed to underlying socio-cultural practices but exacerbated by the stress of displacement, conflict, and natural disasters. Such trauma was for instance reported to often result in a change in parental behaviour that translates into physical, verbal and psychological violence against children, and leads to an increased need for psycho-social assistance for both parents and children. For women and girls specifically, general insecurity has reportedly decreased the already reduced level of freedom with one female FGD participant stating, “the difference between men and women is clear: men can go where they like but women cannot.”<sup>56</sup>

### Vulnerable Population Groups

When comparing households based on vulnerability characteristics, some unexpected results were found in relation to households without any tazkira and households living in informal settlements. Both vulnerable population groups were found to have significantly lower unmet Protection needs than their less vulnerable counterparts. In all three cases, the primary driver of this difference was the proportion of households reporting children to be in need of psychological support, while no such services were available in the community. This indicates that the unexpected differences in unmet Protection needs may be more related to the common geographical location of informal settlements, rather than the vulnerability characteristic itself. As highlighted in Table 20, 35% of households in rural areas were found to have unmet Protection needs, compared to 29% of households in urban areas. In these urban areas psychological and social well-being support services are more often available than in rural ones and informal settlements commonly develop around urban areas. The finding that a lower proportion of households without a tazkira have unmet Protection needs requires further research.

<sup>55</sup> REACH, Protection Assessment of Conflict-Affected Populations (PACAP), 2018

<sup>56</sup> Female Focus Group Discussion in Kapisa province (Central), August 2018

**Table 21: Percentage of households found to have an unmet Protection need, by vulnerable population groups**

Population Groups	Female HHH	Male HHH	Disabled HHH	Non-Disabled HHH	Elderly HHH	< 65 years HHH
% HHs with unmet Protection need	31%	35%	37%	34%	36%	34%
Population Groups	HH without Tazkira	HH with Tazkira	HH in ISET	Other	Rural	Urban
% HHs with unmet Protection need	22%	35%	28%	38%	35%	29%

\* Proportions can only be compared within each vulnerability characteristic pairing and not across the whole table.

### Hard-to-Reach Insights

The HTR KIs indicated that populations in HTR areas expressed higher unmet needs related to certain protection issues, but had a similar profile to populations in accessible areas in regard to other protection issues. For instance, KIs in 48% of BSUs reported that children were in need of psychological support, but that there were no such services available in the BSU. In contrast, 31% of households of the non-displaced conflict or drought affected and displaced population groups in the accessible areas noted the same, indicating that HTR areas provide less access to psychological or social well-being services, while need exists.

In contrast, for the indicator measuring the occurrence of GBV in communities, the HTR KIs point to a similar geographic prevalence as the household level survey. Regionally, the South-East (35% of BSUs) and South (30% of BSUs) reported the highest levels of awareness of GBV occurrences in their communities, mirroring the results of the accessible areas.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) forecasted 2.1 million people will be in need of WASH assistance for 2019, with intensifying conflict severely impacting the already limited local resources.<sup>57</sup> Combined with drought conditions throughout most of the country, leading to worsened water availability and low access to improved sanitation facilities, the result has been the adoption of poor WASH practices and growing health concerns. Building on these findings, the following provides additional insights outlining unmet WASH needs across relevant population groups, including in hard-to-reach areas (see Annex 4 for the indicator matrix).

### Crisis Affected and Displaced Population Groups

Nationally, across the crisis affected and displaced population groups, 50% of households reported unmet WASH needs. This proportion rose to 76% for households who were affected by the drought but did not displace. The comparison of recent IDP households (57%) and non-recent IDP households (48%) indicates a reduction of unmet WASH needs over time. This difference between these two population groups was driven primarily by one indicator - households' lack of access to improved latrines - which decreased from 29% for recent IDP households to 21% of non-recent IDP households.

**Table 22: Percentage of households found to have an unmet WASH need, by population group**

Non-displaced Conflict Affected	Non-displaced Drought Affected	Non-recent IDP	Recent IDP	Returnee
50%	76%	48%	57%	51%

<sup>57</sup> OCHA, "Afghanistan: 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview", December 2018



Throughout the country, the regions with the highest proportion of displaced households with unmet WASH needs were the West (60%), followed by the South (59%), North-East (56%), and the North (55%). The drought conditions in these regions during the data collection provide an explanation for these elevated needs.

Of the three indicators considered for unmet WASH needs, the number of children under five years old who had experienced diarrhoea throughout the two weeks prior to data collection was the main driver of unmet needs in five out of the seven regions. This included the most affected region, the West, where 47% of displaced households reported the continued occurrence of diarrhoea in children. Returnee households here were particularly susceptible (57%).

The two exceptions were the South and the South East, for which the biggest driver of unmet needs was the lack of appropriate latrine facilities. Proportions of displaced households who reported using open latrines without a slab or having no facility at all, resorting to open fields, were elevated in these regions (32% in the South, 30% in the South East), with recent IDP and refugee households again the most affected population groups.

**Table 23: Percentage of households found to have an unmet WASH need, by region**

Recent	Non-recent IDPs	Recent IDPs	Returnees	Refugees	Total
Central	39%	42%	40%	N/A	39%
East	46%	50%	50%	N/A	48%
North	54%	57%	58%	N/A	55%
North East	56%	56%	61%	N/A	56%
South	61%	62%	52%	N/A	59%
South East	36%	82%	31%	82%	35%
West	57%	68%	60%	N/A	60%

In the South East, 82% of recent IDP households and 82% of refugee households were found to have unmet WASH needs, the highest proportions across Afghanistan, despite these provinces not being the worst drought affected. Combined with the significantly lower proportion of non-recent and returnee households reporting unmet WASH needs in the region, these South-East findings require further research.

### Vulnerable Population Groups

Several vulnerability characteristics were furthermore correlated with the proportion of households reporting unmet WASH needs. The biggest divide was between households that included at least one member with a national identity document (tazkira) and households without; those without any tazkira were more often found to have unmet WASH needs (72%) compared to those with at least one tazkira (47%). This may be related to the previous finding that households without a tazkira were among the least economically resilient, rendering them among the least likely to be able to afford shelter with improved WASH facilities. Furthermore, households living in an ISET were more commonly affected with 56% found to have unmet WASH needs, compared to 47% of households living in other locations. This difference was equally driven by a higher proportion of households in ISETs having reported diarrhoea occurring in children under the age of 5 throughout the two weeks prior to data collection as well as a higher proportion of households in ISETs relying predominantly on an improved latrine. Finally, a higher proportion of households in rural locations (48%) reported unmet WASH needs, driven by the continued occurrence of diarrhoea in young children under the age of 5 in the two weeks prior to data collection.

While there was no significant difference in the overall proportion of female- and male-headed households with unmet WASH needs, a significantly higher proportion of female-headed households (30%) reported not having access to an improved latrine, than male-headed households (21%). This correlation was furthermore confirmed and noted in the qualitative FGDs, with one male participant in Kunar noted that “Many differences exist between men and women in our community... women and girls cannot use public latrines and they cannot go to the field or walk far distances for using a toilet or latrines.”

**Table 24: Percentage of households found to have an unmet WASH need, by vulnerable population group**

Population Groups	Female HHH	Male HHH	Disabled HHH	Non-Disabled HHH	Elderly HHH	Non-Elderly HHH
% HHs with unmet WASH need	47%	47%	52%	47%	46%	46%
Population Groups	HHs without Tazkira	HHs with Tazkira	HHs in ISET	HHs in Other Locations	Rural	Urban
% HHs with unmet WASH need	72%	47%	56%	47%	48%	41%

\* Proportions can only be compared within each vulnerability characteristic pairing and not across the whole table.

### Hard-to-Reach Population

The HTR KIs indicated that populations in HTR districts have less access to improved water sources than households in accessible areas. KIs in 38% of the BSUs reported that the populations relied predominantly on unimproved water sources for their drinking water (water trucking/tankering, unprotected spring or kariz, or surface water). The situation was found to be the worst in the North (57% of BSUs), the West (53% of BSUs), and the North East (47% of BSUs). These findings mirror the geographic areas worst affected by the recent drought and indicate that HTR populations were one of the population groups worst affected by the drought.

The lack of access to improved drinking water sources may also explain the high prevalence of potential waterborne disease in HTR areas, with KIs reporting children having had diarrhoea during the 2 weeks prior to the assessment in 35% of the BSUs.

### Accountability to Affected Populations

Households across all population groups (displaced and non-displaced) expressed similar levels of awareness of feedback and complaint mechanisms (10%). However, awareness was much more varied across geographic regions. Households in the South (36%) reported the highest levels of awareness, while households in the West (5%) reported the lowest. Households in urban settings (25%) were more likely to be aware of these mechanisms than households in rural settings (6%). Similarly, a lower proportion of households in ISETs (5%) reported being aware of feedback and complaint mechanisms compared to those in other locations (11%). Other vulnerable population groups reported similar levels of awareness as the average displaced or non-displaced household.

When asked about their preferred means of communication with aid workers, mobile phone calls/texts (27%), community leaders (25%), and traditional media (23%) were the top choices. Displaced households significantly favoured mobile phones and community leaders over the media, while it was the opposite for non-displaced households. If combined, community and religious leaders were the preferred means of communication with aid workers by both displaced and non-displaced households. The regional discrepancy of preferred means of communication needs to be interpreted carefully, as the WoAA interviews were not spread equally across the districts of each region, but instead focused on where the humanitarian needs were the highest. In the East this resulted in most interviews being held where IDP and returnee household displaced towards, namely urban districts in Nangahar province. Responses in these urban districts were thereby the driving source of the overall regional finding in the East (i.e. 68% preferring mobile phone calls/texts), hiding the fact that more than two thirds of households in the other three eastern provinces (Kunar, Nuristan, and Laghman) preferred to communicate with aid workers via community or religious leaders. Indeed, in Nuristan province this was the case for almost 100% of the interviewed households.

While the regional deviations are representative of the overall humanitarian caseloads in the regions, it fails to accurately account for the differences across the provinces and districts. More granular follow-up research hence remains necessary.

**Table 25: Preferred means of communication with aid providers, by regions and by displacement status**

	Media	Mobile phone calls /texts	Social media	Community leaders/ community events	Family/ friends networks	Religious leaders	Whatsapp/ other phone app
Central	53%	4%	10%	20%	1%	13%	0%
East	1%	68%	1%	23%	0%	7%	1%
North	1%	8%	0%	84%	1%	5%	2%
North East	32%	3%	4%	19%	1%	33%	8%
South	30%	0%	4%	9%	2%	48%	8%
South East	2%	1%	0%	62%	0%	34%	1%
West	21%	11%	1%	18%	3%	46%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Non-displaced Population	30%	19%	6%	22%	1%	21%	0%
Displaced Population	19%	30%	3%	26%	1%	18%	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>2%</b>

Over half of the households in rural areas preferred to communicate via community or religious leaders, while almost one third chose the mobile phone as their preferred means of communication. Households in ISETs were more likely to want to communicate via community or religious leaders (68%) and among all population groups were found the least likely to prefer to establish contact via mobile calls or texts. There was no significant difference across the other vulnerability characteristics.

In HTR areas, over two thirds of KIIs reported the population preferred to communicate with aid providers via community or religious leaders. Importantly, this finding is based on KIIs, conducted often with community representatives who may be biased. The use of media was significantly less favoured by communities in HTR districts (5%), compared to households in accessible areas (23%).

## CONCLUSION

The multi-faceted crisis in Afghanistan has far reaching impacts resulting in civilian casualties and injuries, internal and international displacement, and a range of unmet sectoral needs throughout the population. While these needs were previously commonly assessed by each Cluster in isolation, the WoAA was the first inter-sectoral assessment of its kind and scope in Afghanistan aimed to better understand how sectoral needs overlap, interact, and exacerbate one another. Beyond providing a comprehensive dataset for strategic humanitarian programming by the sectors, the WoAA's key aim was hence to push the methodological boundaries to establish an inter-sectoral evidence base for integrated response planning across several Clusters.

Across all regions, this assessment found that the two-fold nature of the Afghan humanitarian crisis - ongoing conflict and recurrent drought - means that there are a wide variety of primary and secondary effects felt by the population. However, as a result of both drivers the WoAA determined a high proportion of households with overlapping unmet needs amongst the crisis affected and displaced population.

Overall, the assessment determined that 60% of crisis affected or displaced households had three or more sectoral needs simultaneously. This finding clearly supports the general direction of the humanitarian and donor community towards integrated response programming. A couple of population groups and areas were furthermore determined to particularly benefit from a coordinated Cluster response. First, refugee (79%) and non-displaced drought affected households (70%) were found to have a significantly higher proportion of households with at least 3 unmet needs at the same time. This finding is hence in line with the current plan to pilot an integrated response in Badghis province, supporting drought affected populations. In particular, households in rural areas, and/or without a tazkira, and/or with a disabled household head were found more likely to have multiple (3+) sectoral needs simultaneously, requiring a coordinated and multi-faceted response to support them effectively. Regionally, the report found that households in the South-East, North, and South had the highest instance of concurrent needs and would hence benefit from a push towards more integrated response planning.

For displaced households the report found that the three sectors that most commonly overlapped with other sectors were FSA, WASH, and ESNFI, indicating that these could be first ones to coordinate their response frameworks to IDP and returnee movements. In contrast, for non-displaced drought affected households, the ESNFI sector was replaced by Protection, rendering WASH, Protection, and FSAC the three sectors that most commonly overlapped with other sectors. Lastly, for non-displaced conflict affected households, the sectors that most commonly overlapped with other sectors, in terms of unmet needs, were, in order of magnitude: Health, FSAC, and Protection.

Moving forward, these kind of findings can help the humanitarian community prioritise their integrated response efforts to ensure the support is focused on the populations and areas that require it most.

Aside from these inter-sectoral insights, the WoAA highlighted a range of findings on sectoral needs, disaggregated by population groups, regions, and vulnerability characteristics. Particularly, the latter insights are a valuable contribution from the WoAA, as the scope of needs assessments in Afghanistan is commonly too small to allow for statistically significant insights on vulnerable population groups.

Lastly, the WoAA included findings on HTR districts indicating that the situation across these areas is very nuanced with results indicating regional and sectoral differences in unmet needs. These findings suggest that interventions in these areas be targeted to reflect the needs expressed by the population. Although there are additional barriers to working in these districts, the assessment showed that there is a need for the humanitarian community to continue focusing on these areas and populations.

Therefore, to conclude, this assessment report has outlined key findings related to unmet needs throughout Afghanistan across all population groups, and revealed the high occurrence of multiple needs simultaneously and strong indications for the benefits of a better coordinated response across Clusters. Moving forward, some key information gaps remain that should be considered when developing 2019 assessments. First and foremost, Afghanistan lacks longitudinal and trend analysis. Repeating the analysis on an annual basis and providing insights into the development of the humanitarian situation will be crucial to better understand and improve the humanitarian

response to recurring issues, such as the drought. Secondly, the WoAA will need to provide more granular insights on non-displaced crisis affected households, as quantitative analysis on this population group has so far remained limited to the national level. A comparison between displaced and non-displaced crisis affected households at the regional and even provincial level can provide valuable insights into what effects displacement actually has and how these two groups can best be assisted. Lastly, the WoAA will need to aim to better address the limitations lined out in the methodological section of the introduction, particularly around the under-representation of women. Effort should be made to better incorporate their viewpoints while respecting socio-cultural practices. With half of the population being female, the WoAA needs to better understand the particular gendered needs and vulnerabilities.



## ANNEX

Annex 1: Household survey sampling strategy, stratified by province and displacement status

Provinces	Non-Recent IDP	Recent IDP	Returnee	Refugee	Non-Displaced	Total
<b>Central</b>	<b>2804</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>4828</b>
Bamyan	345	6	40			391
Daykundi	643	1	23		3	670
Ghazni	372	29				401
Kabul	302	262	127	2	421	1114
Kapisa	376	18	2		2	398
Logar	107	21	372		20	520
Panjsher	199	47	131		25	402
Parwan	272	91	25			388
Wardak	188	136	218		2	544
<b>East</b>	<b>1072</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>2642</b>
Kunar	227	133	197	10	40	607
Laghman	249	74	191	1	34	549
Nangarhar	258	266	193	14	374	1105
Nuristan	338	19	24			381
<b>North</b>	<b>2164</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>3630</b>
Balkh	241	210	216		340	1007
Faryab	765	133	2		52	952
Jawzjan	332	108	26	2	10	478
Samangan	365	7	166	5	18	561
Sar-e Pul	461	104	52		15	632
<b>North East</b>	<b>1302</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>2653</b>
Badakhshan	350	33	7		1	391
Baghlan	295	94	143		159	691
Kunduz	337	250	99	15	202	903
Takhar	320	144	127	1	76	668
<b>South</b>	<b>1811</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>3215</b>
Helmand	552	157	17		119	845
Kandahar	306	75	135	10	207	733
Nimroz	216	157	220		82	675
Uruzgan	444	82	12	10	26	574
Zabul	293	48	46		1	388
<b>South East</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>2548</b>
Khost	193	311	266	326	81	1177
Paktika	120	25	164	67	3	379
Paktya	292	76	175	14	435	992
<b>West</b>	<b>1222</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>2619</b>
Badghis	396	67			26	489
Farah	124	167	300		60	651
Ghor	353	34			8	395
Herat	349	217	99	1	418	1084
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10980</b>	<b>3602</b>	<b>3815</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>3260</b>	<b>22135</b>

**Annex 2: Key Informant Interviews in HTR districts, by BSUs**

Regions	Number of districts assessed	Number of BSU assessed	Number of Kills
Capital and Central Highlands	5	39	88
East	13	93	216
North	6	75	164
North East	13	145	338
South	20	155	336
South East	4	20	60
West	9	71	190

**Annex 3: Focus group discussion sampling strategy, by region and participant group**

Provinces	Male Focus Groups	Female Focus Groups
<b>Central</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
Bamyan	1	1
Daykundi	1	1
Ghazni	1	1
Kabul	1	1
Kapisa	1	1
Khost	1	1
Logar	1	1
Paktika	1	1
Paktya	1	1
Panjsher	1	1
Parwan	1	1
Wardak	1	1
<b>East</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
Kunar	1	1
Laghman	1	1
Nangarhar	1	1
Nuristan	1	1
<b>North</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
Badakhshan	1	1
Baghlan	1	1
Blakh	1	1
Faryab	1	1
Jawzjan	1	1
Kunduz	1	1
Samangan	1	1
Sar-e Pul	1	1
Takhar	1	1
<b>South</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
Helmand	1	1
Kandahar	1	1
Nimrox	1	1
Uruzgan	1	1
Zabul	1	1
<b>West</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
Badghis	1	1
Farah	1	1
Ghor	1	1
Herat	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>

**Annex 4: Individual Needs Indicators used to calculate unmet needs.**

Annex 4: Individual Needs Indicators used to calculate unmet needs:			
Education in Emergencies			
Indicator	Question	Response if unmet need	Threshold for (impact on) sectoral need
Children aged 5-18 removed from school within the last year due to conflict or natural disaster	How many school-aged (5_18 years) boys/girls are currently enrolled in an education facility now?	Less children enrolled than 12 months ago AND Reason for removal: "Active conflict in your community made it unsafe to travel to school" OR "School was closed/occupied due to active conflict" OR "Anticipated conflict in your community" OR "Fear of recruitment of children in/on way to school" OR "Natural disaster damaged the school"	If ≥ 1 out of 3 questions meet criteria
Education facilities within walking distance closed due to conflict or natural disaster	Are you aware of any education facilities within walking distance of your house being permanently closed?	Yes.	
Children earning an income outside of the home instead of attending school	How many boys/girls (<18 years) are earning an income outside of the home instead of attending school?	> 0.	
Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ESNFI)			
Indicator	Question	Response if unmet need	Threshold for (impact on) sectoral need
Shelter damaged by conflict or natural disaster	Has the household's shelter been damaged in the last six months due to the following?	"Yes, due to conflict" OR "Yes, due to natural disaster" + Extent of damage = "Fully destroyed" OR "Significant damage" + Since repaired = "No".	If ≥ 1 out of 3 questions meet criteria
Shelter type	What type of shelter does the household live in?	"Makeshift Shelter" OR "Open Space" OR "Tent (emergency shelter)".	
Household with unsustainable access to NFIs	How does your household typically access NFIs?	"Humanitarian Assistance" OR "Friends or Relatives"	
Food Security and Agriculture			
Indicator	Question	Response if unmet need	Threshold for (impact on) sectoral need
FCS	Composite Indicator: Food Consumption Score	<= 28.0	If ≥ 1 out of 3 questions meet criteria
rCSI	Composite Indicator: reduced Coping Strategy Index	>= 10.0	
Impact on agriculture	For households mainly dependent on agriculture, has shock (conflict/natural disaster/displacement) had a negative impact on your farming in the last six months?	"Yes" + > 20% loss in agricultural production due to shock	
Health			

Indicator	Question	Response if unmet need	Threshold for (impact on) sectoral need
Access to medication	Do household members have sufficient access to all medication they need?	"No" + Reason: "Access to medicine is restricted by armed groups" OR "It is not possible to buy medicine in the local markets" OR "Medicine is no longer supplied to this community because of damaged supply routes or damaged facilities for storing medicines"	If ≥ 1 out of 3 questions meet criteria
Access to health facilities (travel & being at)	Do household members feel like they are able to go to health facilities?	"No" + Reason: "They are prevented from travelling to services by armed groups" OR "They feel travelling to services is unsafe" OR "They feel being in health services is unsafe".	
Health facilities damaged or closed	Have any health facilities used by members of your HH been permanently or temporarily damaged or closed as a result of the following in the past year?	"Yes" + Reason: "The have been forcibly closed" OR "They have been damaged beyond use by conflict" OR "They have been damaged beyond use by natural disasters"	
Nutrition			
Indicator	Question	Response if unmet need	Threshold for (impact on) sectoral need
Continued breastfeeding	Which of the following food types did young children in the household (aged between 6 and 23 months) eat in the last 24 hours?	Age: 12-15 months AND No milk and/or breastfeeding	If ≥ 1 out of 3 questions meet criteria
Introduction of complementary food	Which of the following food types did young children in the household (aged between 6 and 23 months) eat in the last 24 hours?	Age 6-8 months AND Only milk and/or breastfeeding	
Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD)	If solid food, which food groups did the young child (6-23 months) eat in the last 24 hours?	Age 6-23 months AND Less than 4 solid food groups.	
Protection			
Indicator	Question	Response if unmet need	Threshold for (impact on) sectoral need
Physical Injuries due to Conflict/Natural Disaster	Have any household members been physically injured by conflict or natural disaster in the last six months?	"Yes"	
Gender Based Violence	Are you aware of GBV incidents against adults or children occurring in	"Yes"	



	your community in the past 30 days?		If ≥ 1 out of 3 questions meet criteria
Psychological Needs of Children	Are you aware of children in your community in need of psychological or social well-being support? If in need, do children have access to this support? If no to adults or children, what is the most common reason those in need of this support unable to receive help in your community?	"Yes" + Reason: "Conflict or conflict related violence" OR "Airstrikes" OR "Displacement" OR "Natural Disaster" + No access to support, since "Psychological support services are not available in the community".	
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)			
Indicator	Question	Response if unmet need	Threshold for (impact on) sectoral need
Drinking water source unimproved	Which type of drinking water source is MOST used by the household?	"Water trucking / tankering" OR "Spring, well or kariz - unprotected" OR "Surface water (Stream/river/irrigation)"	If ≥ 1 out of 3 questions meet criteria
Latrine unimproved	What type of latrines have been most commonly used by the household members in the last 30 days	"No facility - open field, dearan, bush" OR "Family Pit latrine - without slab / open"	
Children illness: diarrhoea	How many people in the following groups have been experiencing diarrhea for more than the last two weeks?/Children under the age of 5	> 0	