



# Winterization Assessment

## Preliminary Findings

June 2020 | Kabul, Afghanistan



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH**

Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action



# Objectives

- ❖ Present **preliminary findings**
- ❖ Obtain **feedback** on findings
- ❖ Facilitate **discussion** and outline next steps



All findings included in the presentation are to be considered **preliminary** only, aimed to facilitate a joint review and discussion. They remain subject to final quality control and validation. Changes in the individual percentiles are possible. Validated numbers will be disseminated through the public outputs.





# Content

- I. Overview & Methodology**
- II. Key (Preliminary) Findings**
  - Beneficiary Households
  - Implementing Organisations
  - Coordination Bodies
- III. Next Steps & Discussion**







1

# Overview & Methodology



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH**

Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action



# ES/NFI Winterization Response 2019/2020

Between November 2019 and March 2020, the ES/NFI Cluster and its partners, in coordination with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA), provided the following winterization response:

- **Scope:** 71,405 (out of 95,350) vulnerable households in all 34 Provinces across Afghanistan
- **Funding:** \$19.2 million from the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund and bilateral donors, and \$2.4 million from GoIRA for heating/fuel, shelter, and warm clothing expenses
- **Assistance Provided:** Minimum winterization package (\$200 USD per household)
  - **Modalities:** Restricted Cash, Unrestricted Cash, In-kind, Vouchers
  - Assistance was meant to provide the equivalent of **one** of the following:
    - One gas cylinder with 5kg capacity and 60kg of gas per month (x3 months)
    - One bukhari stove and 200kg of wood per month (x3 months)

Good could be provided in single or multiple instalments of restricted or unrestricted cash, vouchers, directly as in-kind, or a mixture of different modalities totalling \$200 USD.





# Research Objectives

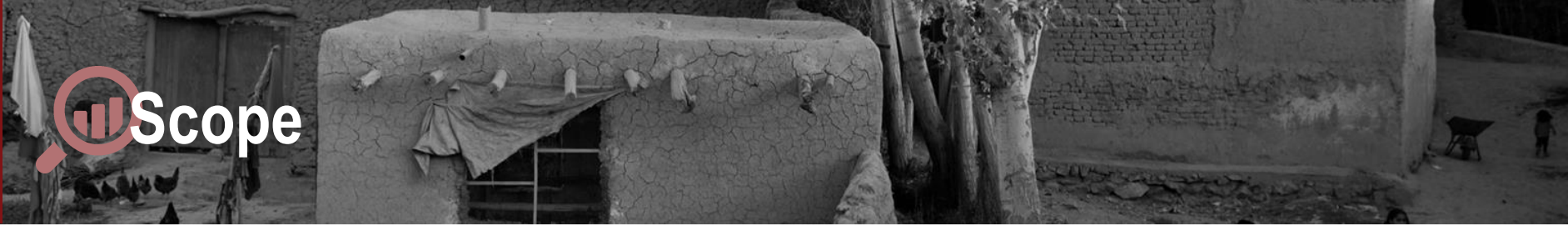
Evaluate the effectiveness of the 2019/2020 Winterization response across Afghanistan, at four levels:

- I. **Household:** Understand the impact of and beneficiary satisfaction with the winterization assistance provided.
- II. **Community:** Assess effects of the assistance on non-beneficiary households in the community and community dynamics.
- III. **Organisations:** Evaluate the availability and use of guidance and procedures, and identify common implementing challenges in the different regions.
- IV. **Coordination:** Identify coordination challenges and best practices in Kabul and the different regions.

➤ Aimed to inform the Winterization strategy for 2020/2021 in terms of implementation, coordination, and beneficiary selection.







## Methodology

### Household Survey

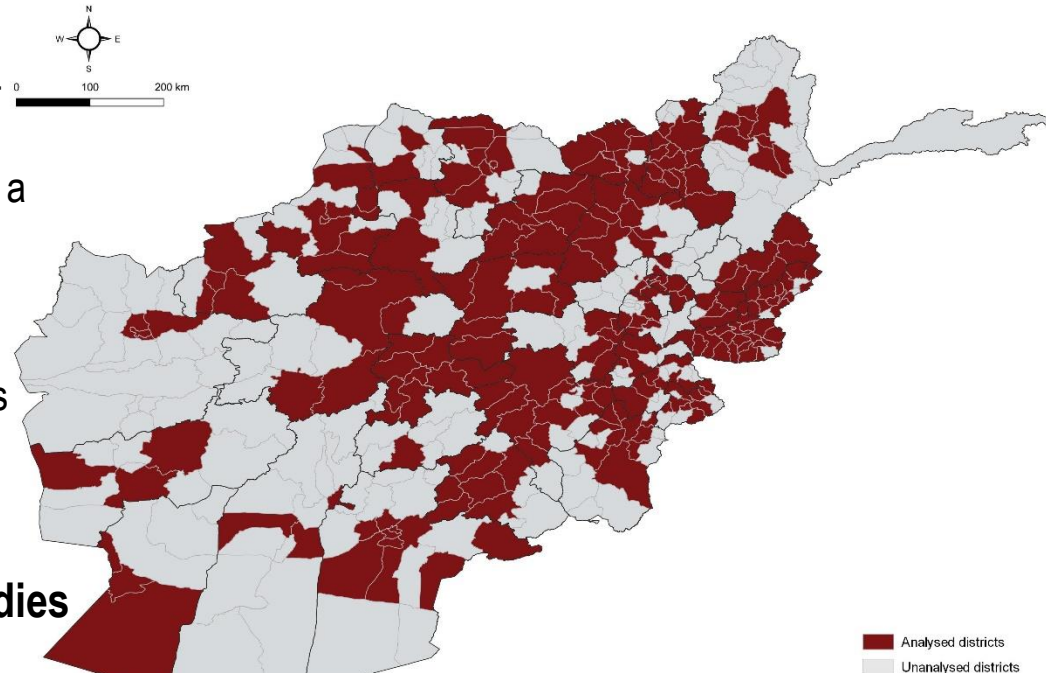
- 4,899 HH interviews with beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.
- Statistically significant at the regional level, with a 95% confidence level and a 7% margin of error.

### Key Informant Interviews – Organisations

- 44 key informant interviews with representatives of 20 implementing organisations.
- 32 programme staff & 12 M&E staff.

### Key Informant Interviews – Coordinating Bodies

- 31 key informant interviews with national and regional Clusters, OCHA, MORR and ANDMA.



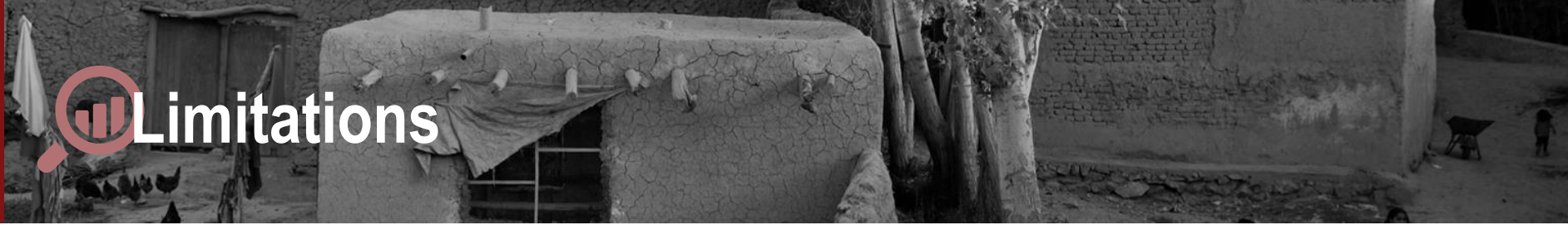


# Sample – Household Survey

IDP and Host	Unrestricted Cash		Restricted Cash		In-kind		Voucher		Total	
Beneficiary	Population	Sample	Population	Sample	Population	Sample	Population	Sample	Population	Sample
Central	2117	205	544	156	4201		889		2661	361
Central Highland	1423	192	202	114				189	2514	495
East	3356	201	3826	206					7182	407
North	1724	200	5099	237					6823	437
North East	4389	226	1210	203		219			9800	648
South	948	179	1393	181					2341	360
South East	1870	188	692	167					2562	355
West	8250	272	5072	164					13322	446
<b>Total</b>	<b>24077</b>	<b>1663</b>	<b>18038</b>	<b>1428</b>	<b>4201</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>47205</b>	<b>3499</b>

Other Population Groups	Population	Sample
Cross-Border Returnees	363	86
Refugee (South-East)	59	59
IDP Returnees	858	170
Non-Beneficiary	9763	1085
<b>Total</b>	<b>11043</b>	<b>1400</b>





- ❖ With the household head being predominantly male in Afghanistan, **conditions and needs of women may be misrepresented.**
- ❖ **In-kind and voucher assistance** was only provided by a small number of organisations, resulting in a **strong dependence** of the assessment's findings on the modalities' effectiveness on the **performance of a few organisations.**
- ❖ **Non-beneficiary households** were not equally sampled across all regions of Afghanistan, due to the absence of comprehensive populations lists, resulting in an **underrepresentation in the Central Highlands, South, and West.**
- ❖ Due to **differences in how organisations defined 'restricted cash'**, REACH, for the purpose of this assessment, provided **respondents** with a standardised definition (see Metadata slides) and allowed them to **determine if the assistance received was 'restricted'**. This enabled the assessment to compare spending behaviour, based on respondents' perception of conditionality. Upon request, data can be re-analysed applying organisations' individual definitions of 'restricted cash'.





# 2

## Key Findings



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

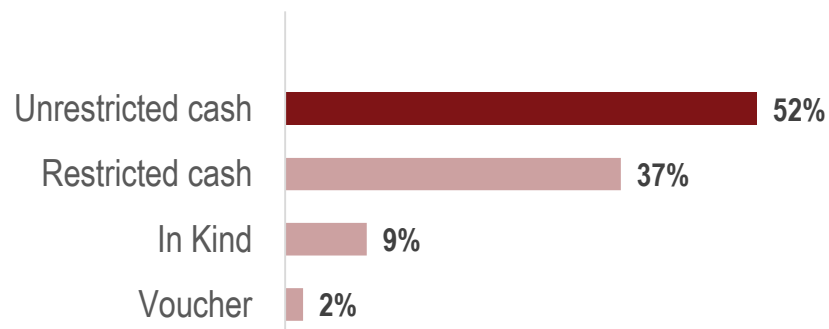
**REACH**

Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

# Metadata 1/2

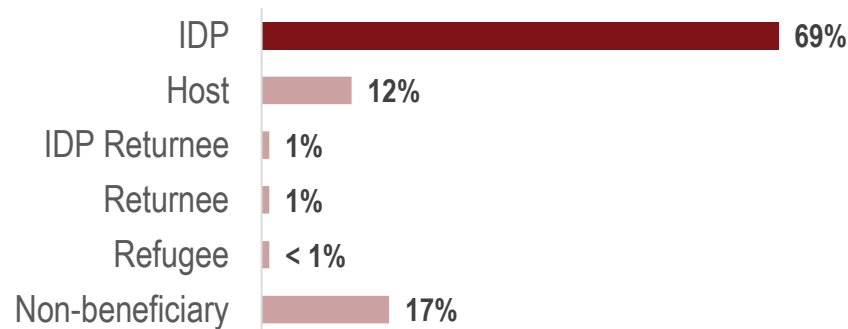
Overall sample: 83% beneficiary households and 17% non-beneficiary households.

% of sampled beneficiary households, by reported aid modality



- **3%** of respondents were listed by organizations as receiving aid but did not report receiving any.

% of sampled households, by reported displacement type



- **16%** of respondents reported a different displacement status than listed by the organization.

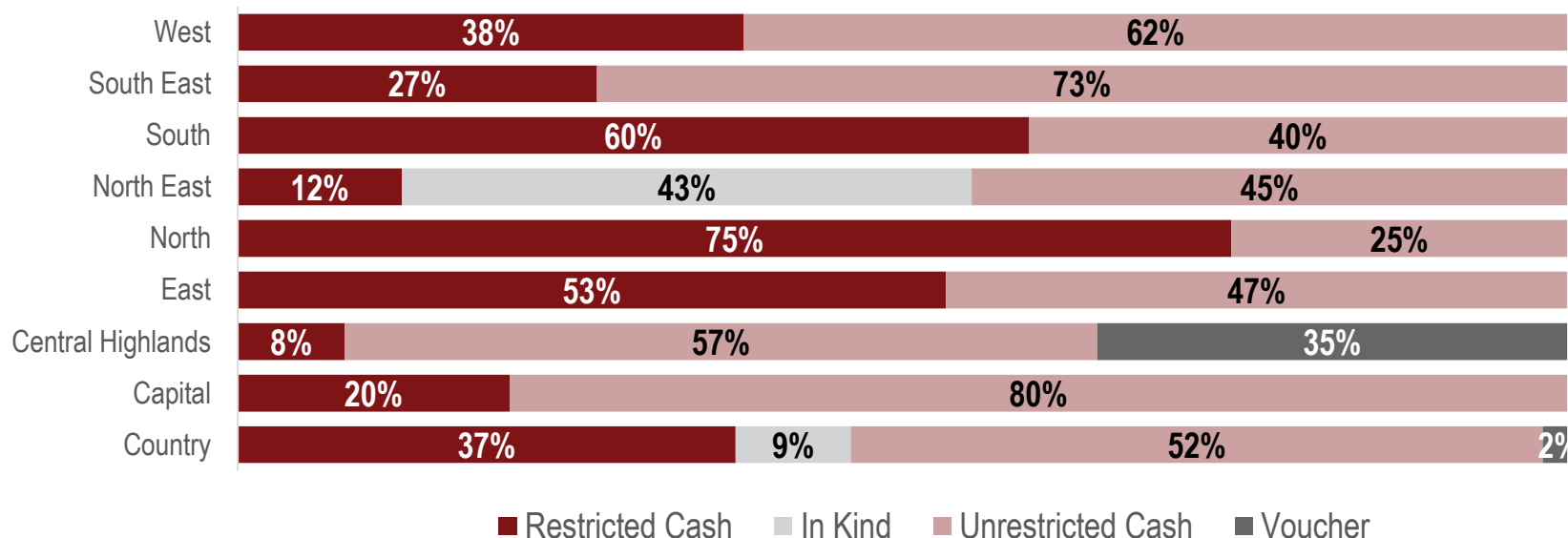
! **Restricted cash** was self-reported, and **defined** as: 'The direct and conditional payment of cash to beneficiaries. Usually, this is in multiple payments and **beneficiaries must show proof of purchase of particular items in order to receive subsequent payments.**'





## Metadata 2/2

% of beneficiary households reported modality of aid received, by region\*



- **31%** of beneficiary households reported that they had **received winterization aid from more than one organization** during the winter period.\*
- **39%** of beneficiary households reported that they had **received assistance other than shelter, NFIs, or heating materials** during the winter period.\*

\* Based on the subset of households that received assistance.



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

# Key Findings

## Households

---

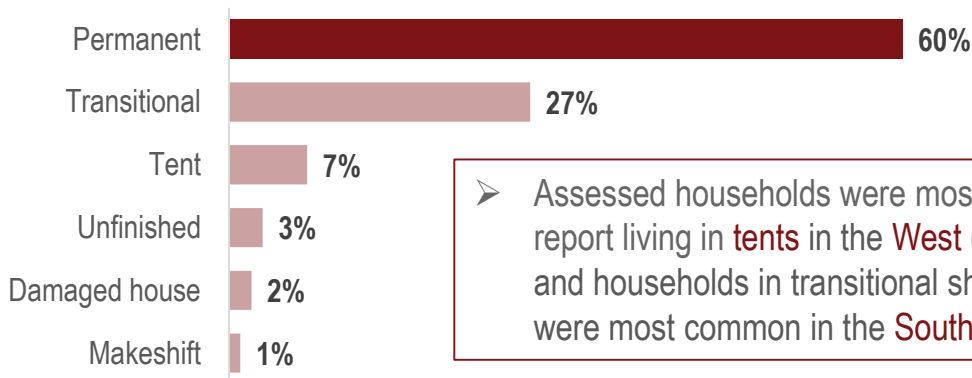




# Demographics

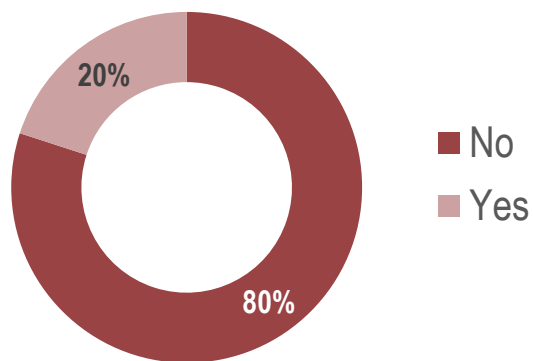
## Shelter conditions & Vulnerabilities

% of households by reported shelter type



➤ Assessed households were most likely to report living in **tents** in the **West (22%)**, and households in transitional shelters were most common in the **South (70%)**.

% of households reported being displaced



**27%** of beneficiary and **18%** of non-beneficiary households were classified as vulnerable



**18%** of HHs were headed by a disabled person  
**24%** of HHs included a person with disabilities



**1%** of HHs reported that no members had tazkeras



**6%** of HHs were elderly headed



**10%** of HHs were female headed



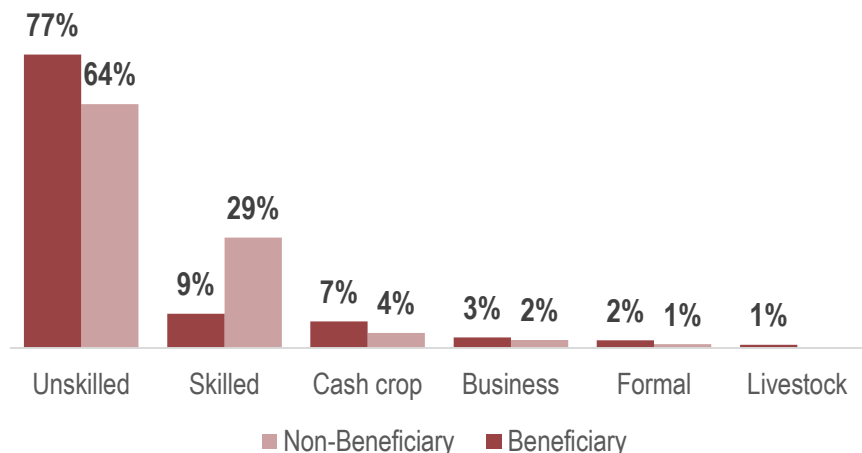




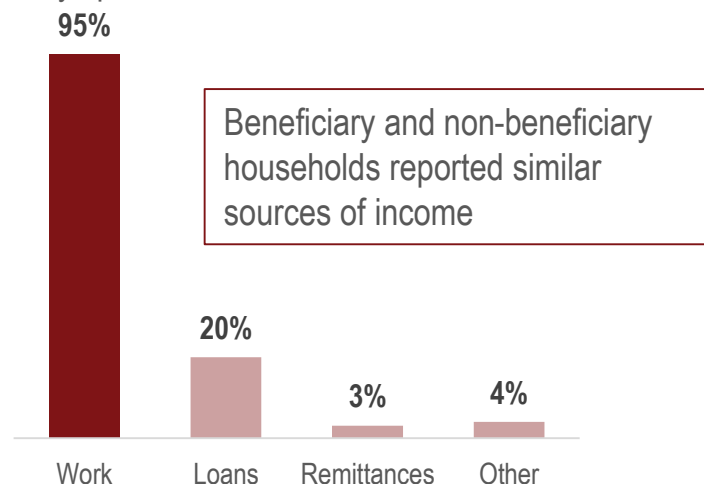
# Demographics

## Socio-Economic Status

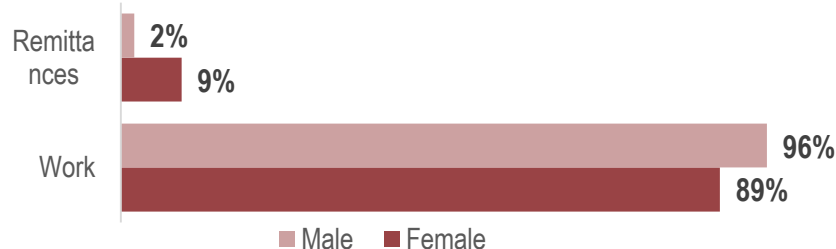
% of households by reported main form of employment, by beneficiary status\*



% of households by reported sources of income in the 30 days prior to the assessment



% of households by main method of income in the 30 days prior to the assessment, by HH head sex



- **78%** of households in the **West**, **70%** in the **Capital**, and **68%** in the **North** reported insecure unemployment.\*
- **68%** of IDP households and **54%** of host community households reported insecure unemployment.\*

\* Based on the subset of households that reported work as an income source in the 30 days prior to the assessment.



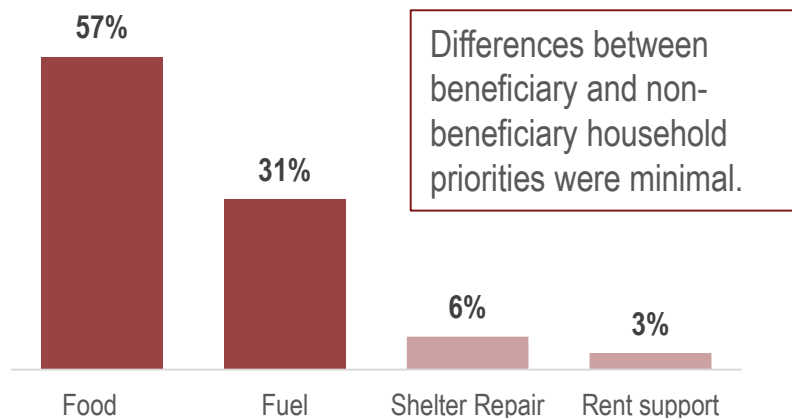
**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH** Informing more effective humanitarian action

# Priority Needs

Main reported priorities during the winter, by % of households

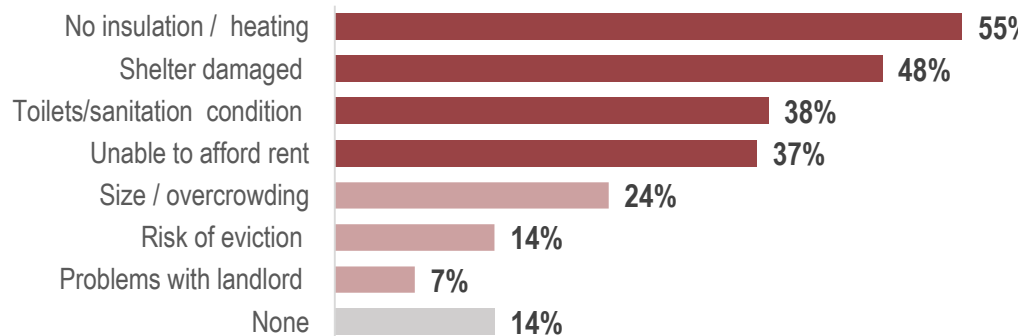


➤ **80%** of households reported that their shelters needed repairs. Of these, the top three issues were:\*

- ① Doors and windows **50%**
- ② Roofing materials **36%**
- ③ Plastic Tarpaulin **32%**

\*Respondents were asked their top three choices

Top three reported shelter concerns, by % of households

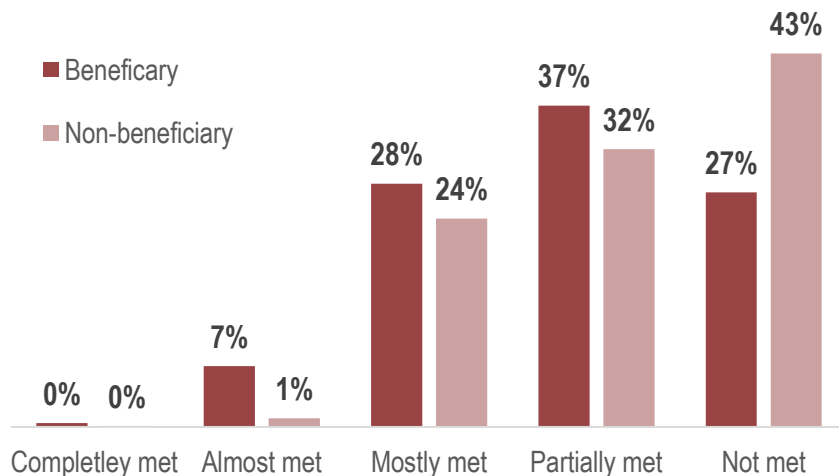


➤ **All** households reported that they lacked NFIs for winter. Of these, the top three items were:\*

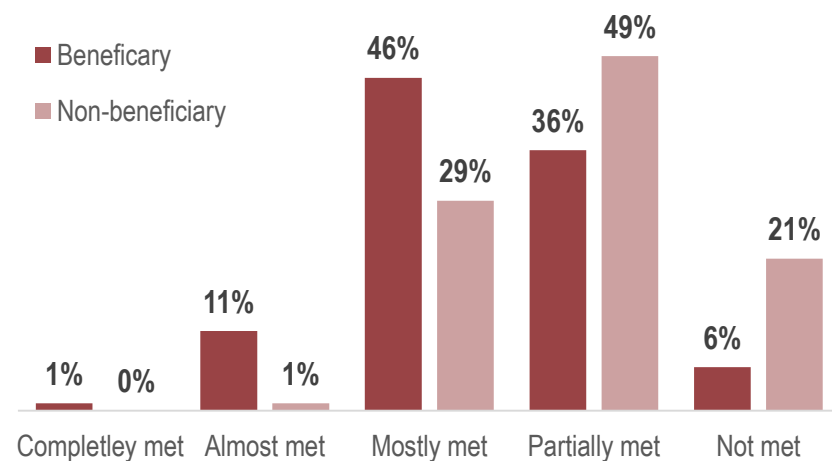
- ① Firewood/charcoal/other fuel **86%**
- ② Blankets and quilts **56%**
- ③ Winter Clothing **45%**



% of households by reported level of meeting their shelter winterization needs, by beneficiary status



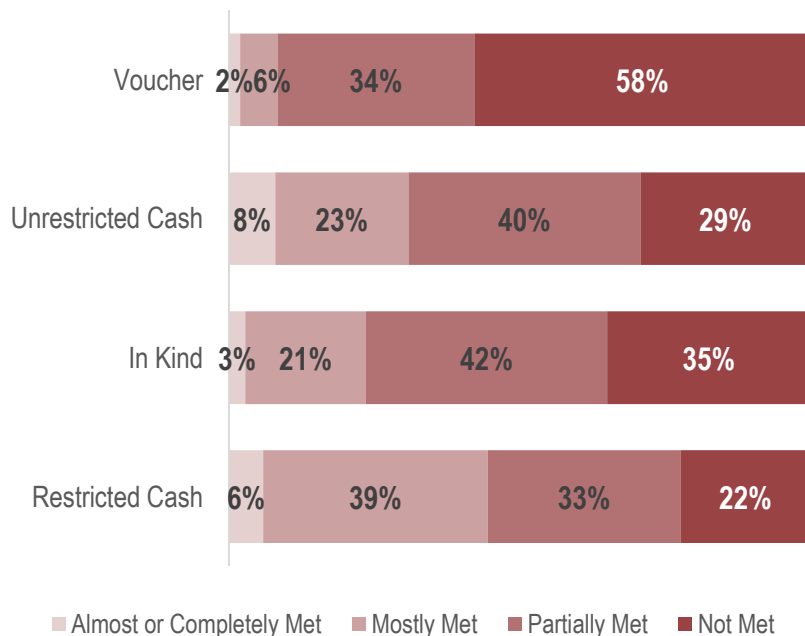
% of households by reported level of meeting their NFI winterization needs, by beneficiary status



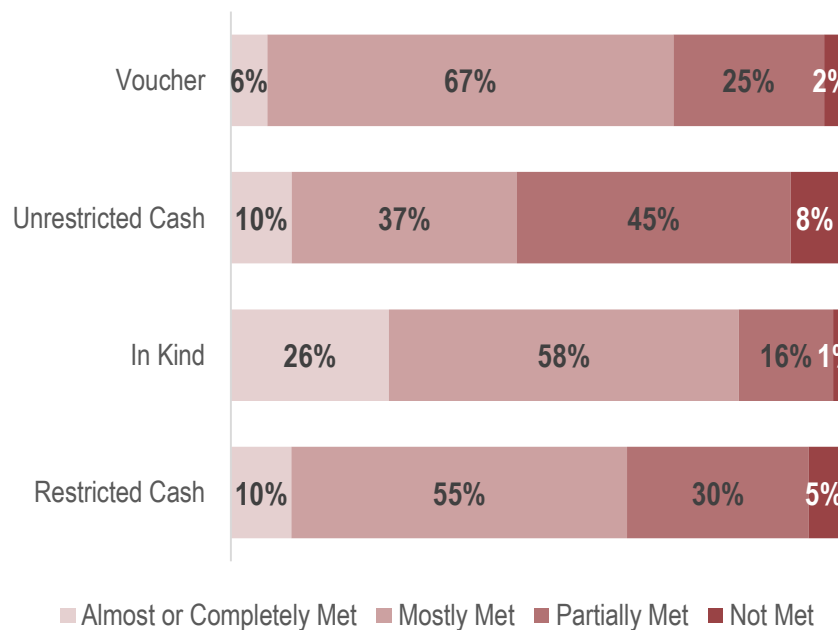
- Female-headed households were more likely to report not having been able to meet their shelter needs, both as beneficiaries (36% to 26% of male HHH) and non-beneficiaries (68% to 41% of male HHH).
- The highest proportion of beneficiary households reporting not meeting their shelter winterization needs were found in the Capital (44%), Central Highlands (38%), and South East (39%) regions.



% of households by reported level of meeting their three most critical shelter needs for the past winter, by aid modality\*



% of households by reported level of meeting their three most critical NFI needs for the past winter, by aid modality\*



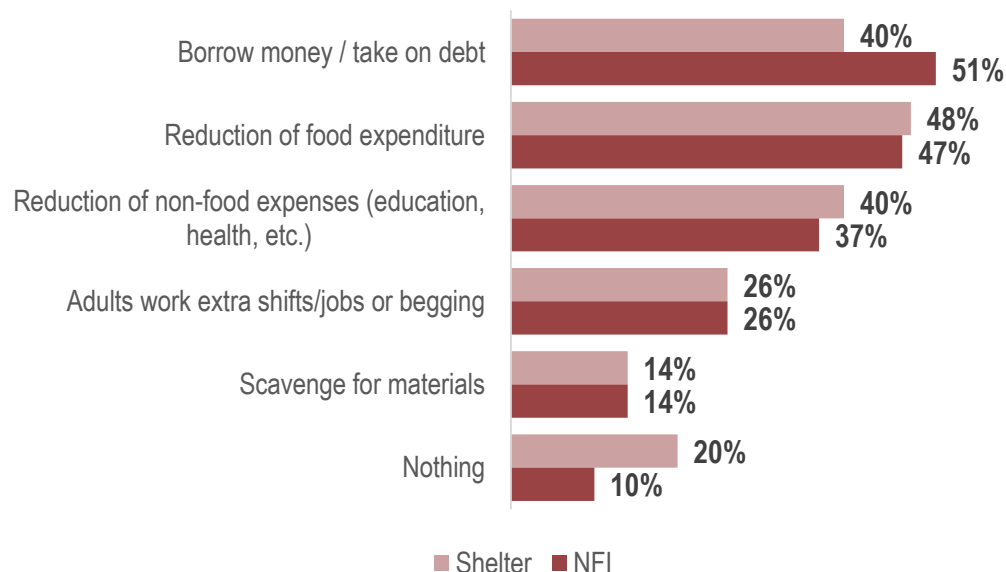
➤ In kind and voucher assistance appear to better meet NFI winterization gaps, while restricted and unrestricted cash were better suited to meet shelter winterization gaps.

\* Based on the subset of households that received assistance.

# Effectiveness

## Coping Strategies

% of households reporting using the following coping mechanisms when they were unable to meet their shelter or NFI winterization needs



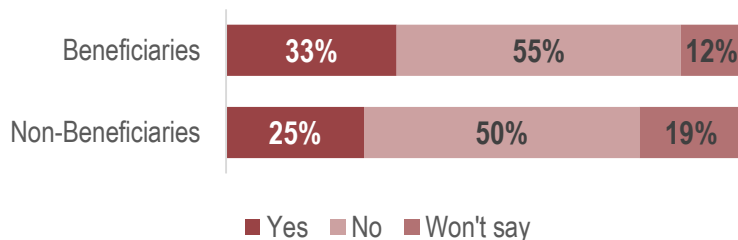
% of households that reported using the following livelihoods strategies during the last winter

Livelihoods coping mechanisms	Non Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
Sell assets	19%	15%
Send household members to beg	7%	12%
Take children out of school to work/save money	18%	16%
Reduce money spent on food for household	75%	60%
Reduce money spent on services (education, health, etc.)	66%	55%
Sell shelter/land	5%	5%
Borrow money / take on debt	57%	69%
Take low paying or inappropriate jobs	69%	66%

- Non beneficiary HHs were slightly less likely to take on debt when unable to meet shelter or NFI needs, but more likely to have took on debt to cover non-ES/NFI winterization needs.
- Average reported household debt was **21,510 AFS**, or **276 USD**.

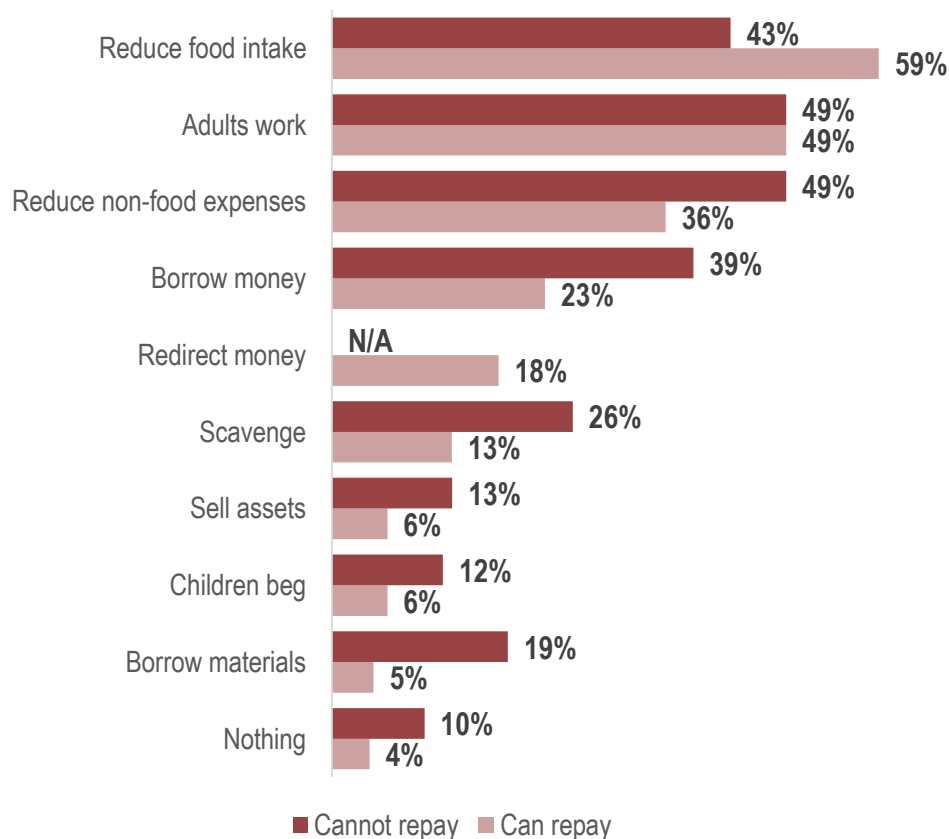
**Beneficiary** households were **more likely to have taken out loans** than non-beneficiary households in order to survive the last winter **(69-57%)**.

% of households that took on debt, by the ability to repay the debt next winter



➤ Female-headed households were **almost three times less** likely to report that they could pay back their debt.

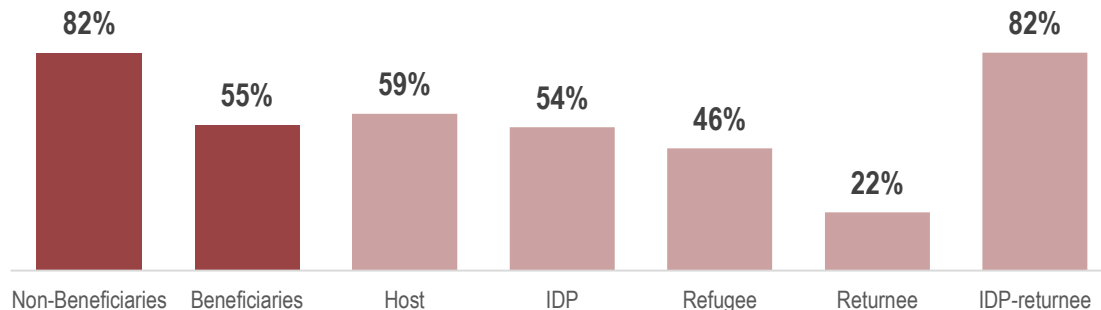
% of households reporting methods they intent to use to repay debt, by ability to repay debt



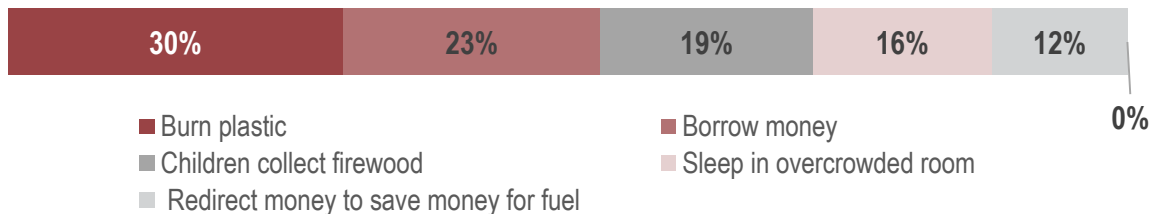


➤ **59%** of the beneficiary households reported being unable to heat their homes sufficiently in the last 5 months

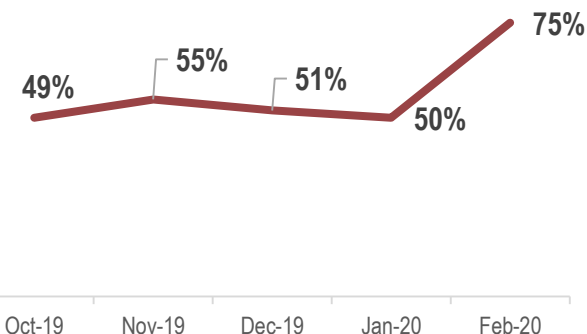
% of households reporting being unable to heat shelter sufficiently during the winter, by displacement status



% of households reporting main coping mechanisms when unable to heat their homes sufficiently\*



% of beneficiary households reporting being unable to heat shelter sufficiently, by month winterization aid was first received†

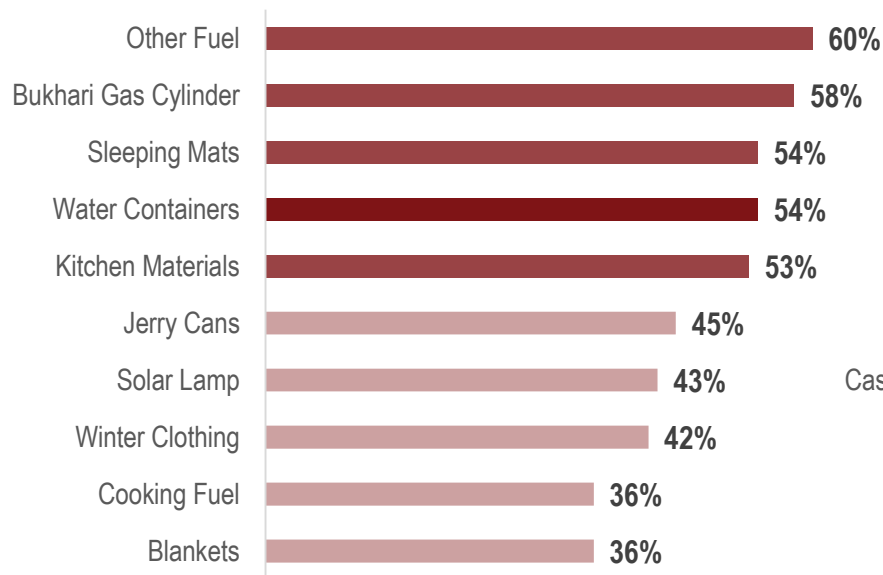


- Households in the **East (64%)** and **South (65%)**, **South East (62%)** as well as the **West (78%)** reported that they were less able to heat their homes than other regions.

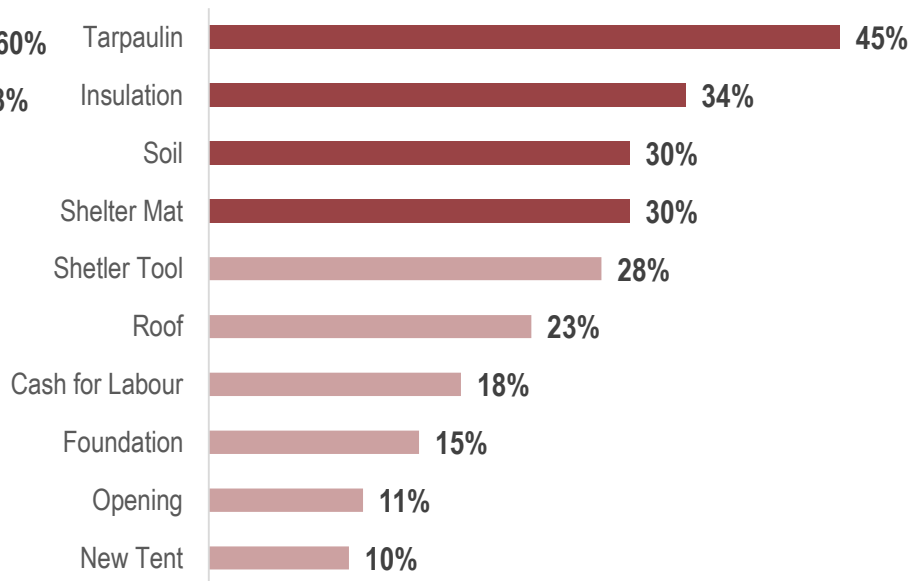
\* Based on the subset of households that reported being unable to heat their homes sufficiently during the winter.

† Based on the subset of households that received assistance.

% of beneficiary households reporting that the assistance they received mostly, almost, or completely met their NFI winterization needs, by items



% of beneficiary households reporting the extent to which the assistance received mostly, almost, or completely met their shelter winterization needs

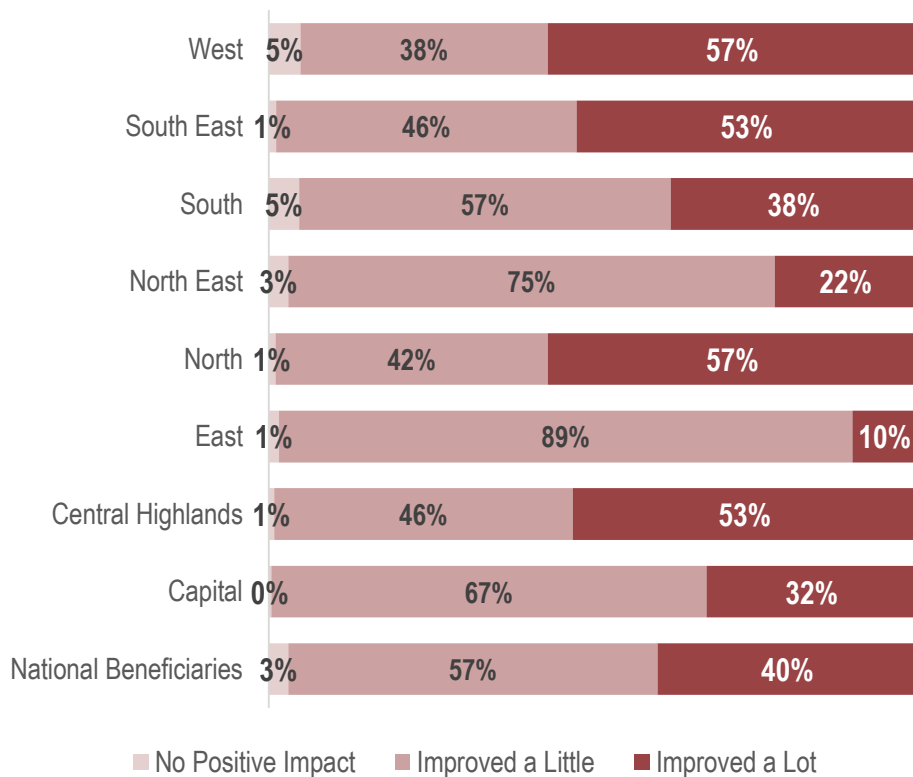


- IDP Returnees to Badghis Province, Host and IDP beneficiaries in the West, and Refugees in the South East, all consistently reported some the highest instances of unmet individual shelter and NFI winterization needs.

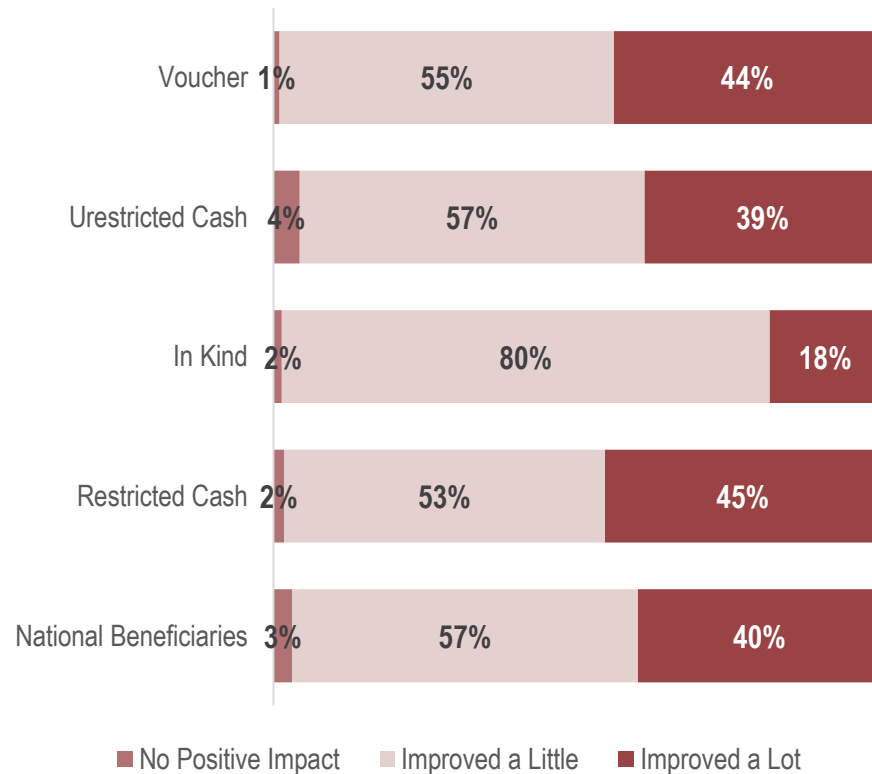
# Satisfaction

## Perceived impact

% of beneficiary households by reported impact of aid on overall well-being, by region\*



% of beneficiary households by reported impact of aid on overall well-being, by aid modality\*



\* Based on the subset of households that received assistance.



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

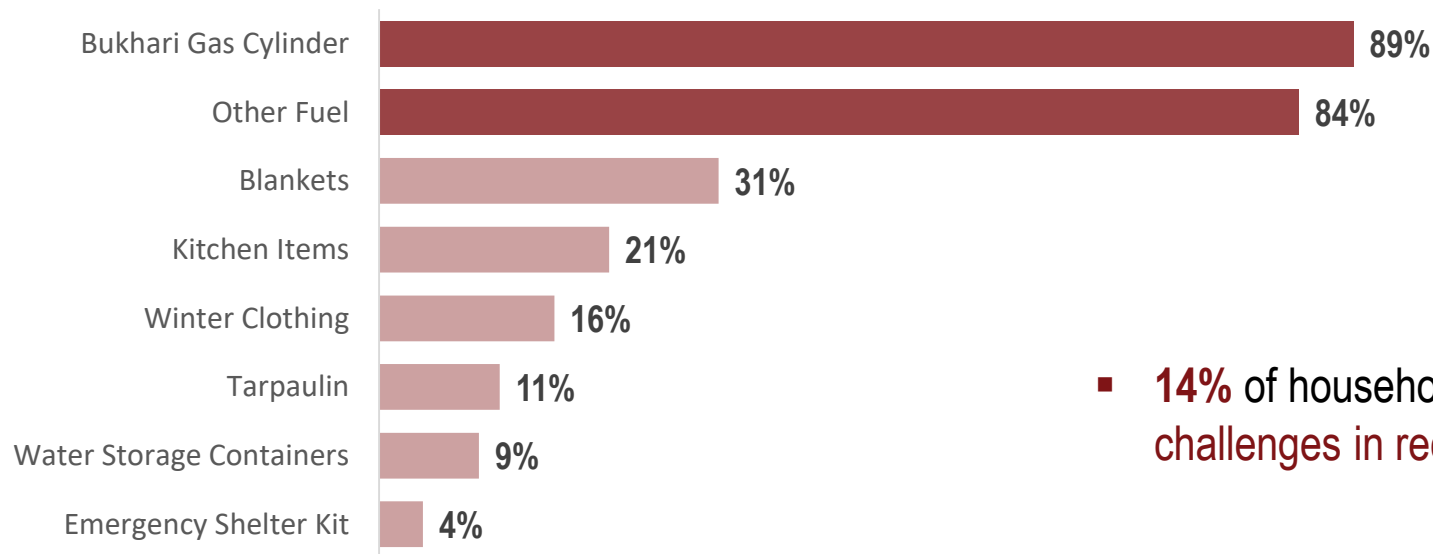


**REACH** Informing more effective humanitarian action

# Satisfaction

## Modality: In Kind

% of households reporting in kind aid items that they received\*



- 14% of households reported challenges in receiving in kind aid\*

➤ 94% of beneficiary households that received in kind aid reported that the aid items arrived in good or excellent condition.\*

• Based on the subset of households that received in kind assistance.



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

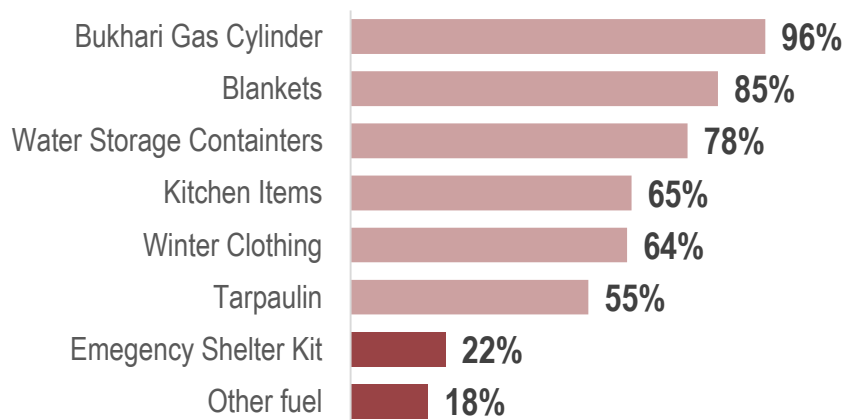
**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action



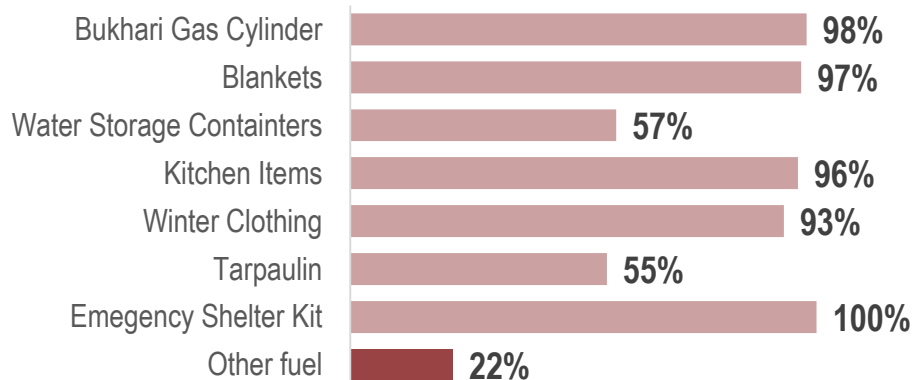
# Satisfaction

## Modality: In Kind

% of beneficiary households reporting items received still functional, by item\*



% of beneficiary households reporting items received expected to be usable by next year, by item\*



**10%** of households that received in kind aid reported **selling all or part of the aid** for money to buy other goods.

- **87%** of households that reported selling all or part of the aid were **female-headed**.
- Most of the money made from selling the items was reportedly spent on food (**48% of households**) or healthcare (**16% of households**).\*

• Based on the subset of households that received in-kind assistance.



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

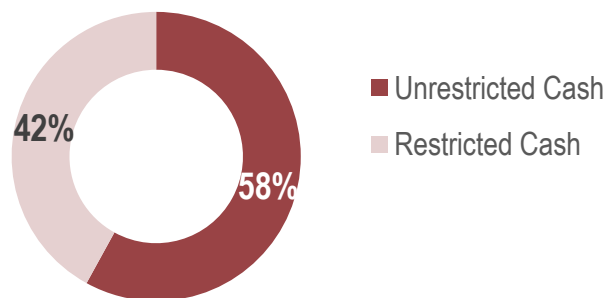
 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

# Satisfaction

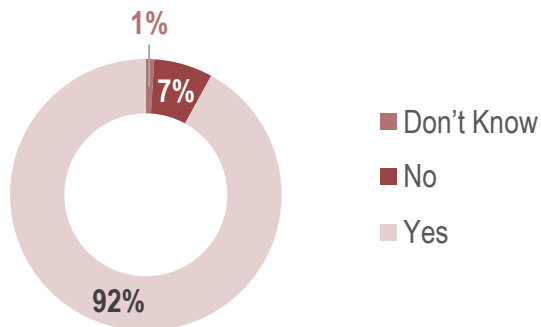
## Modality: Restricted and Unrestricted Cash

% of households that reported having received restricted or unrestricted cash assistance\*

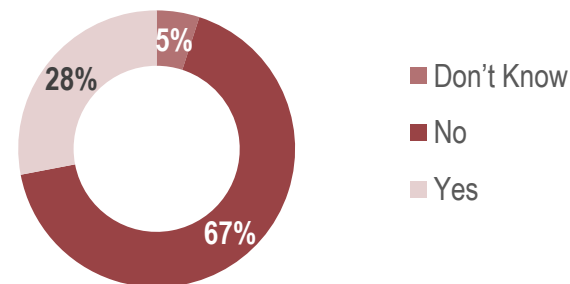


- Households reported receiving an average of **15,717 AFS (~200 USD)\***
- **14%** of unrestricted cash recipients reported that there was a restricted component.

% of households that reported being coached by NGO staff on how to spend cash assistance, of those that received restricted cash assistance



% of households that reported being coached by NGO staff on how to spend cash assistance, of those that received unrestricted cash assistance



\* Based on the subset of households that received cash assistance.



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

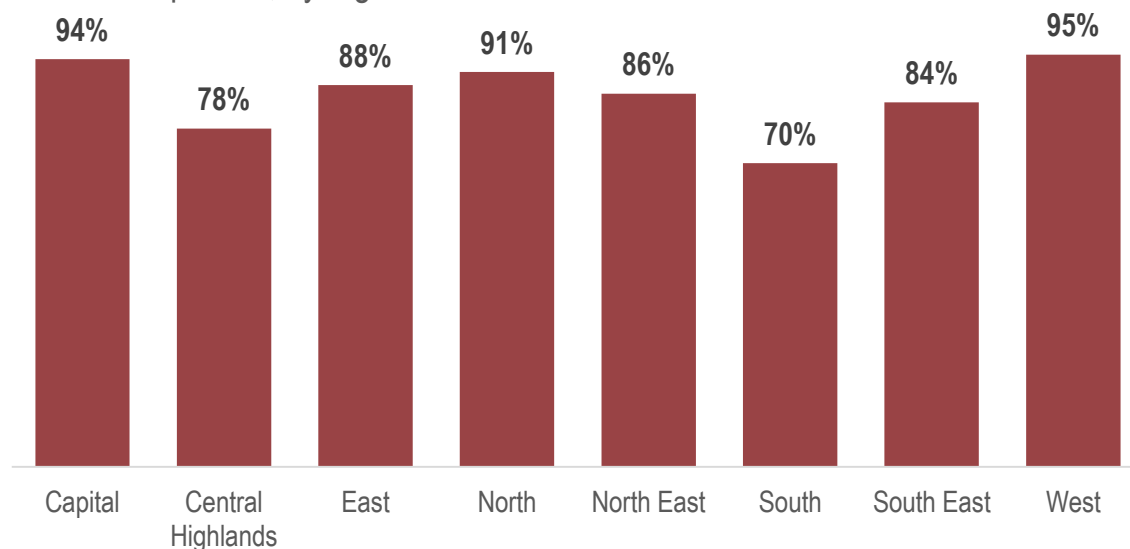
**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

# Satisfaction

## Modality: Restricted Cash

- **73%** of beneficiary households that received restricted cash reported spending **at least some** of the money on the shelter or winterization items that the aid organisation required them to.
- **89%** of beneficiary households that received restricted cash **reported spending some** of the money on **items other than shelter or winterization items**.

% of households that spent conditional cash assistance on non-ES/NFI expenses, by region\*



**23%** of male-headed **and 16%** of female-headed reported that an NGO staff member explained to them how the conditional cash system worked.\*

The **only region** where a majority of beneficiary households reported that the conditional cash system **was explained** to them was the **South**.\*

\* Based on the subset of households that received conditional or unconditional cash assistance with conditional parts



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

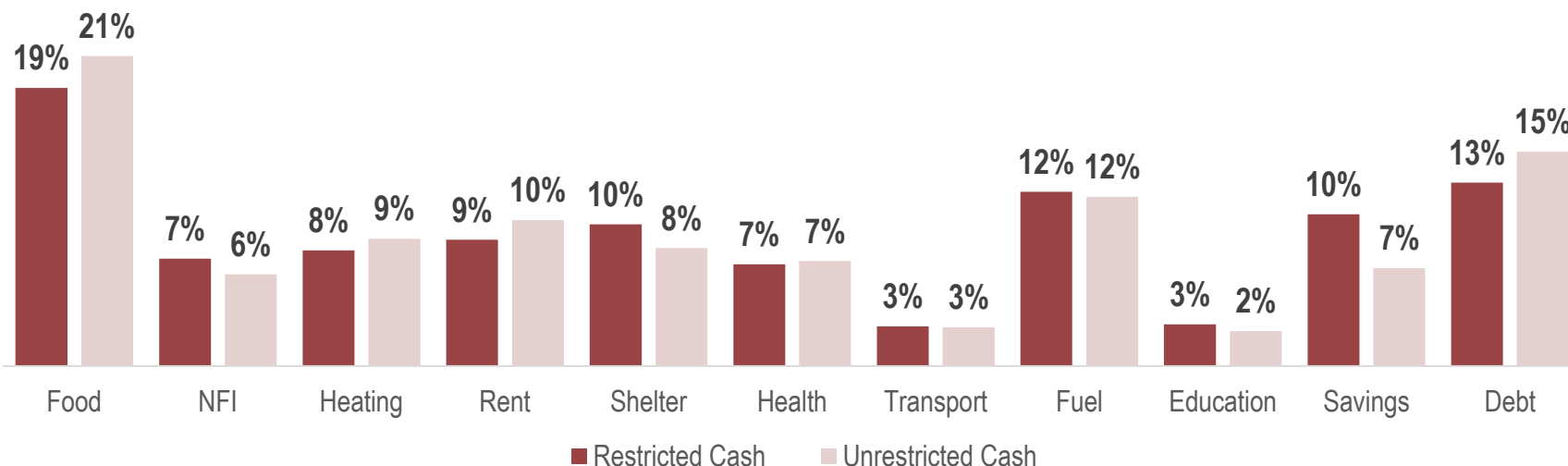


# Satisfaction

## Modality: Restricted and Unrestricted Cash

- Both households receiving restricted cash and unrestricted cash reported spending approximately **45%** of their cash assistance, on average, on ES/NFI and winterization needs.

% of beneficiary households reporting aid expenditure, by cash modality\*



- Female headed households were significantly more likely to report problems using the cash assistance cash than their male-headed counterparts (**78%** for female heads compared to **57%** for male heads).
- The **main challenges** female-headed households reported were they **did not receive enough assistance (65%)** or that the **market was too far to access (25%)**.

\* Based on the subset of households that received cash assistance.



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

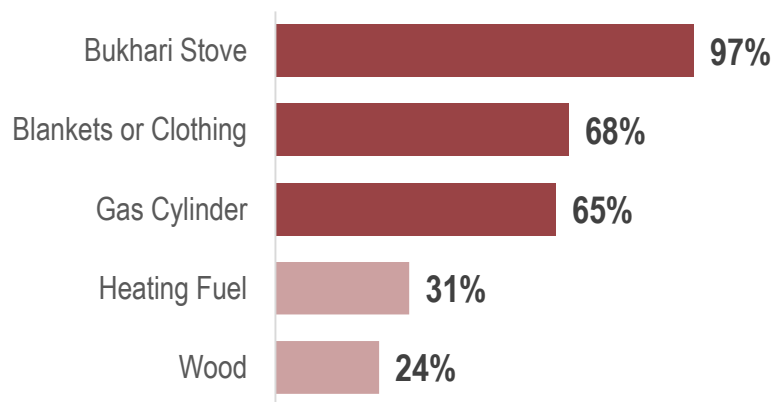
 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

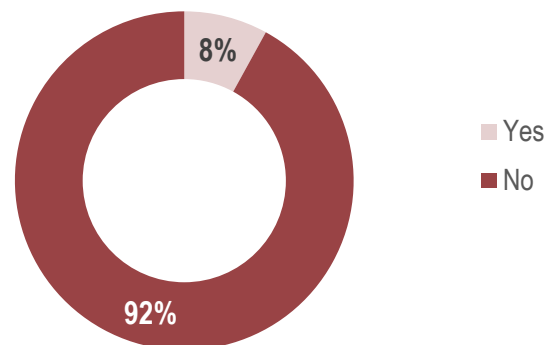
# Satisfaction

Modality: Voucher

% of households by reported items they received vouchers for\*



% of households that received vouchers reporting problems in exchanging them\*



- **87%** of the problems associated with exchanging vouchers were not actually voucher issues, and referred to the distance that most households in the Central Highlands region reported having to walk to the market, which was also reported as an issue for market access.\*
- **88%** of households reported that a member of the organization distributing the vouchers explained to the beneficiary how the vouchers worked.\*

\* Based on the subset of households that received voucher assistance.



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

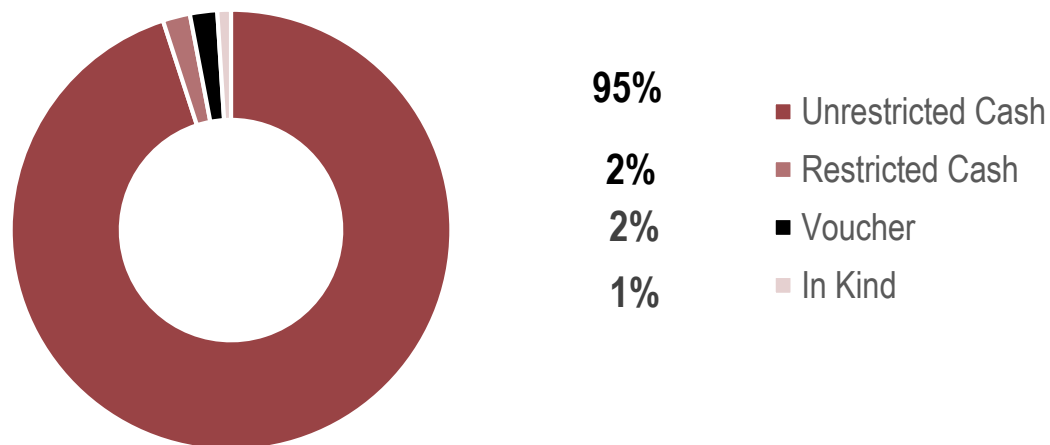


# Accountability

## Modality Preferences

- **95%** of beneficiary households reported a preference for unrestricted cash as their preferred aid modality for winterization assistance.

% of beneficiary households by preferred modality of winterization assistance



- **96%** of households preferred unrestricted cash because of the choice they had in how to spend it.\*
- 19% of refugee households and 8% of beneficiary households in the South reported that they preferred the cash to help the local economy.\*
- MoRR and INGO staff preferred unrestricted cash because it was easier to distribute.†

\* Based on the subset of households that stated to prefer unconditional cash assistance.

† Based on partner and coordination interviews.



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

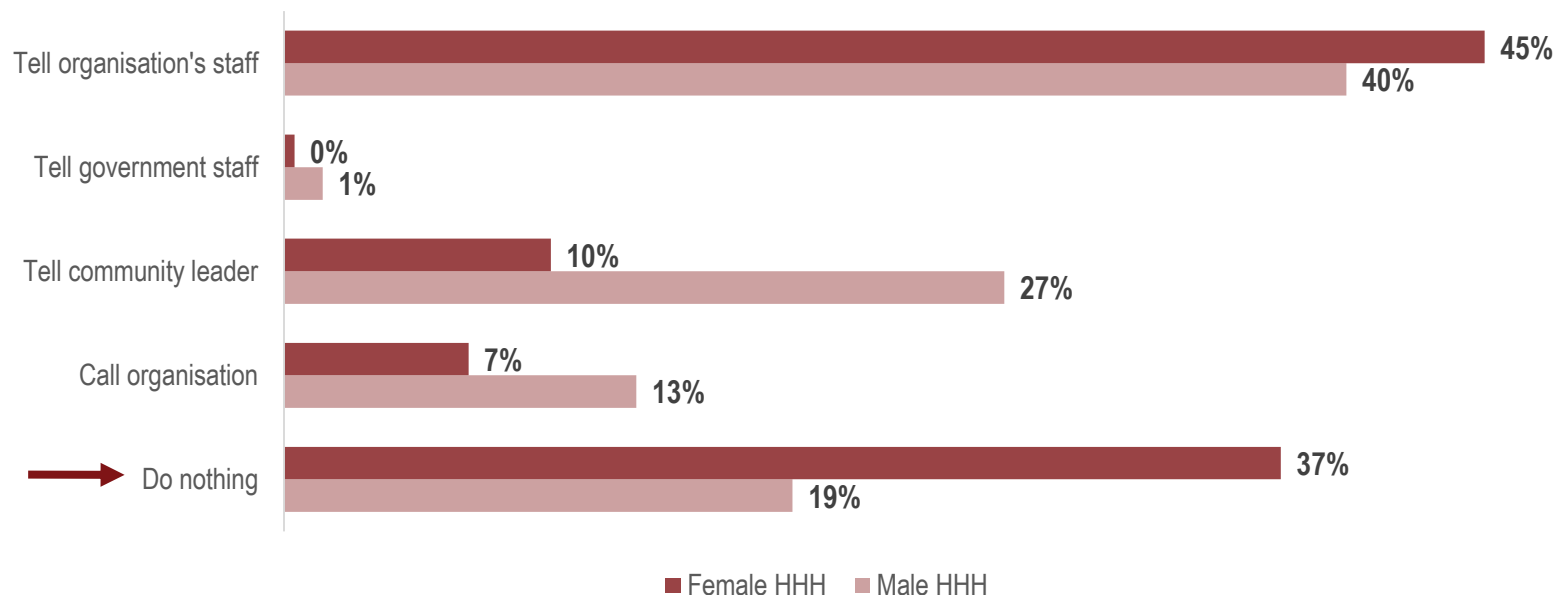




# Accountability

## Complaint & Feedback

% of households reporting what they would do in the event that they had questions or problems with the provided assistance, by head of household gender\*



**4%** of beneficiary households reported having **made a complaint** about the winterization assistance, with no significant differences across regions or aid modalities.\*

- Based on the subset of households that received assistance.



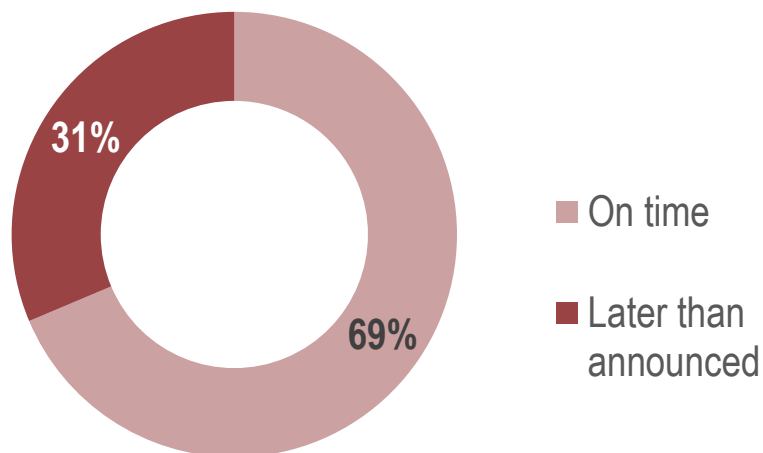


# Accountability

## Provision of Assistance

**5%** of beneficiary households **reported not receiving all of the assistance they were promised**, and 54% of beneficiary households were not aware of how much assistance they were entitled to.\*

% of beneficiary households that received assistance later than first announced by the aid organization\*



- HHs in the **North and North-East** were more **likely** to report a delayed provision of assistance (46% and 64%, respectively).\*
- HHs with **in-kind and voucher assistance** were more **likely** to report a delayed provision (49% and 44%, respectively).\*

• Based on the subset of households that received assistance.



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

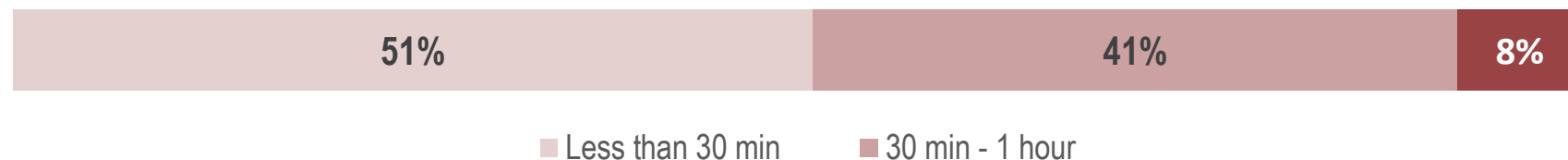
**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action



# Accountability

## Access to Assistance

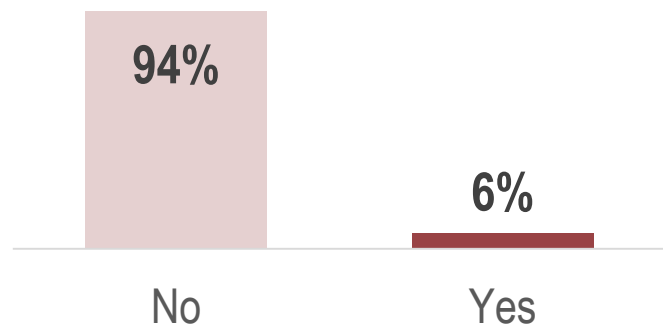
% of beneficiary households, by travel time to collect their assistance\*



! HHs in the **Central Highlands** were significantly more likely to have to travel more than 1 hour to collect the assistance (**38%**), and mostly by foot (66%).

% of beneficiary households that reported challenges during distribution\*

### Most common challenges reported†



- I. Had to wait for 2 hours or more (88%)
- II. People at the distribution were rude (11%)
- III. Did not receive the correct amount (6%)

\* Based on the subset of households that received assistance.

† Based on the subset of beneficiaries that reported challenges during distributions.



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

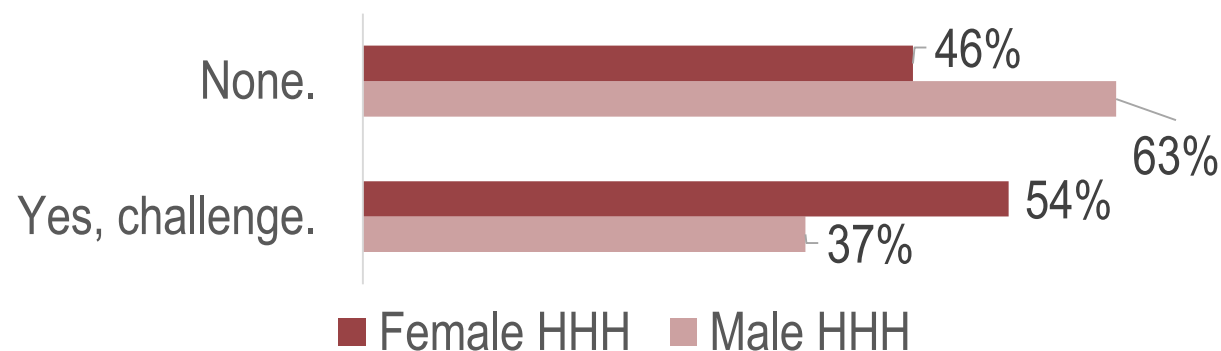
**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action



# Accountability

## Market Access

% of households by reported challenges to accessing markets, by HH head gender



### Central Highlands

HHs in the Central Highlands were more likely to face difficulties to access markets **due to distance (60%)** and **snow coverage (28%)**, than the national average (20% and 5%, respectively).

### Most common challenges reported, by affected HHs\*

- I. Increased prices or insufficient cash (87%)
- II. Poor quality of products sold at the market (31%)
- III. Distance to reach market (20%)
- IV. Snow blockage (5%)

• Based on the subset of households that reported challenges in accessing markets.



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action





# Accountability

## Impact of Assistance Modality

Price reductions in some key winterization NFIs since the preceding winter (2018/2019) were reported nation-wide. Households in the **North-East reported significantly higher price reductions than the national average** on the following items:

- **Bukhari** – North-East **(57%)** vs national average **(36%)**
- **Charcoal** – North-East **(55%)** vs national average **(37%)**
- **Gas** – North-East **(85%)** vs national average **(72%)**

**!** The North-East was the only region where ES-NFI partners reported the distribution of in-kind assistance, including:

- ***5,100 gas heating systems***
- ***1,224,000 kg of gas for heating***

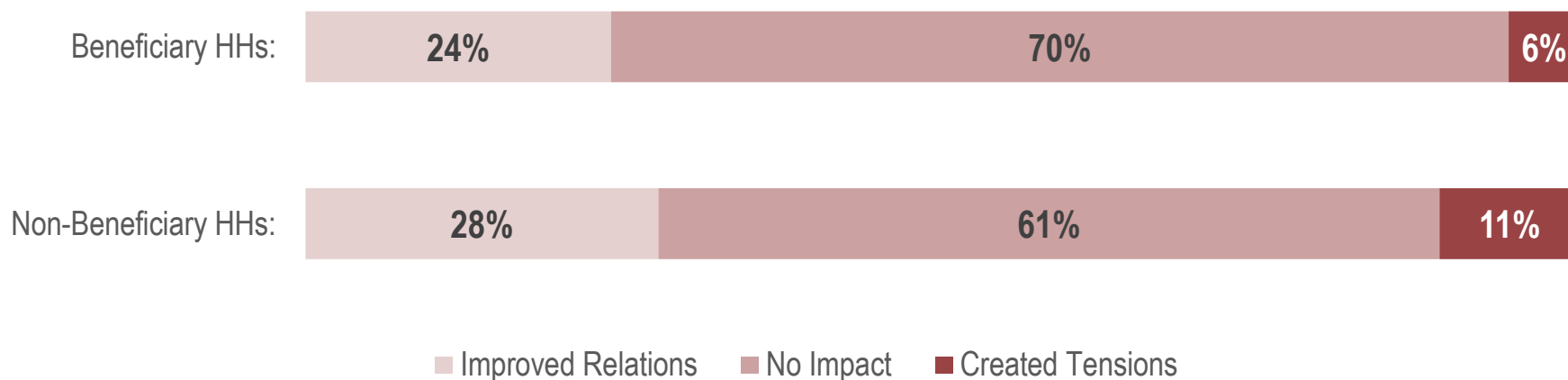




# Accountability

## Community Relations

% of households by reported impact of winterization assistance on community relations:



**89% of non-beneficiary HHs** that live in a community where households received winterization assistance, report that the **assistance benefitted the community as a whole**, for example by increasing money spent in the local economy or by reducing vulnerable families reliance on community support.



# Key Findings

## Organisations



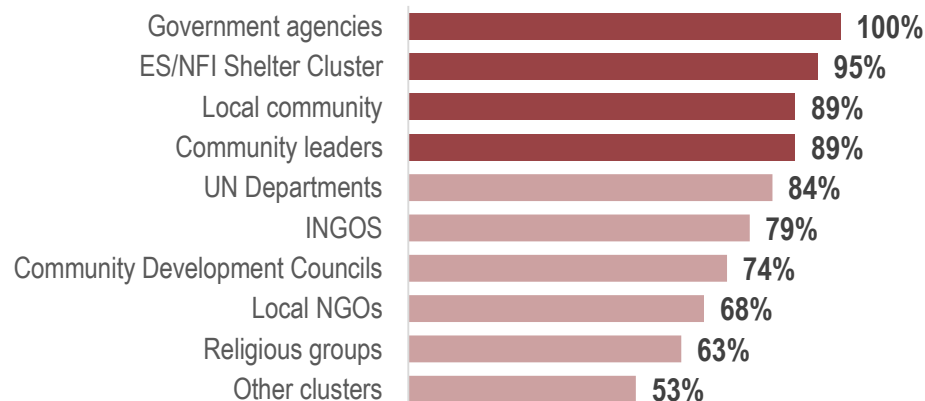
**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

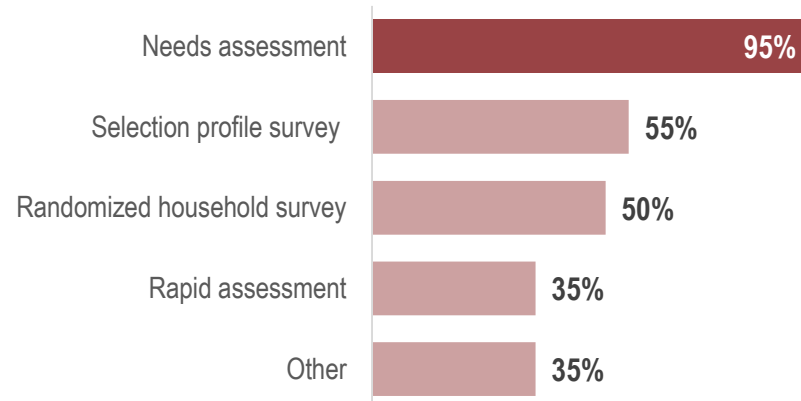
**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

# Beneficiary Selection\*

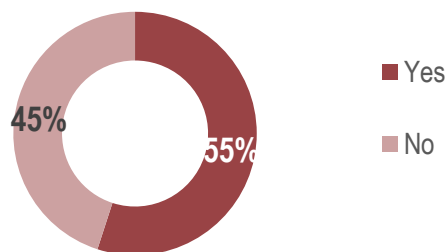
% of assessed organisations reporting working with the following institutions for beneficiary selection



% of assessed organisations by type of reported beneficiary selection assessment methodology



% of assessed organisations reporting that they adjusted the beneficiary criteria for different areas of interventions



- **95%** of assessed organisations reported that they had selected some beneficiaries **solely based upon their displacement status**.
- **60%** of assessed organisations reported **difficulties in locating beneficiaries** after they had been assessed

• Based on a total of twenty responding organisations.

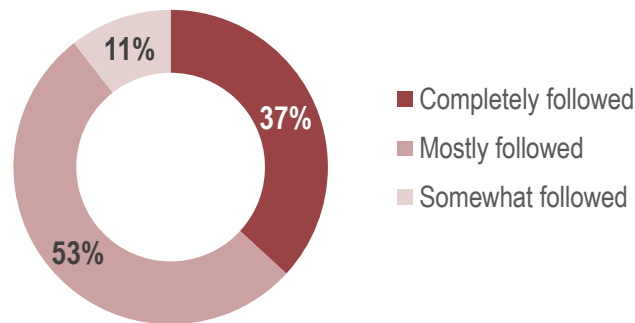


# Distribution\*

## Guidance and Modalities

➤ **95%** of assessed organizations reported **receiving guidance on beneficiary selection** from the ES/NFI Cluster.

% of assessed organisations reporting the extent to which they followed the ES/NFI Cluster guidelines on beneficiary selection

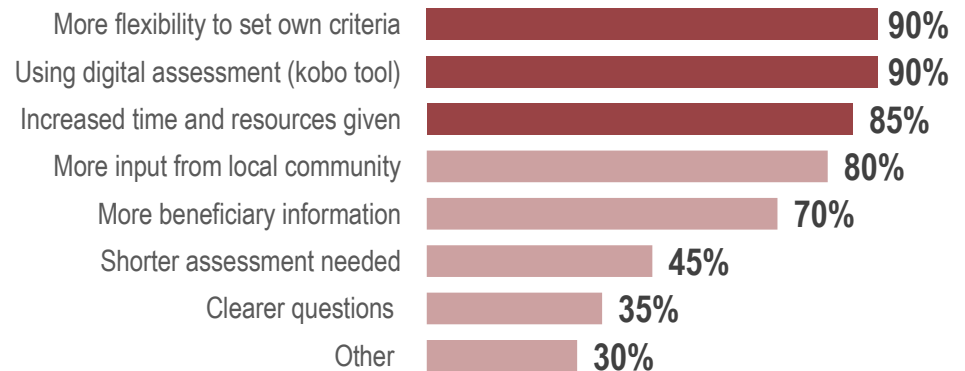


% of assessed organization by reported method through which cluster guidance was accessed:

- ➊ Bilaterally from the Cluster **53%**
- ➋ Cluster Website **32%**
- ➌ Within the contract **16%**

• Based on a total of twenty responding organisations.

% of assessed organisations by reported suggestions to improve the beneficiary selection process



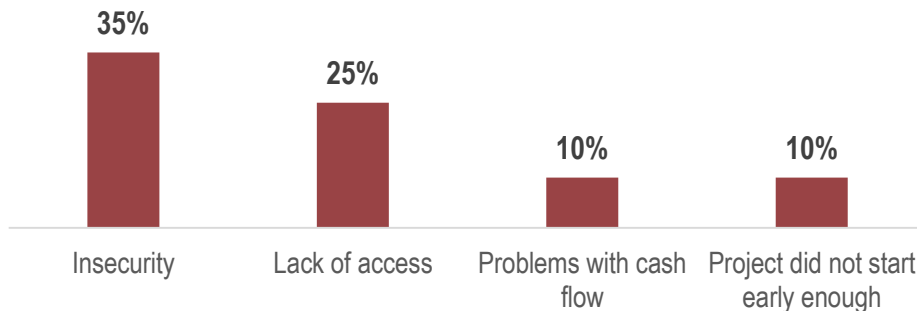
- **95%** of assessed organisations considered their **communication lines** with beneficiaries to have been **successful** or **very successful**.
- **74%** of assessed organisations reported that the main **difficulties with communicating** with beneficiaries came from issues related to **contacting beneficiaries by phone**.

# Distribution Challenges\*

- **68%** of assessed organisations reported facing logistical difficulties in winterization distributions.
- **74%** of assessed organisations reported challenges working with government or humanitarian coordinators.

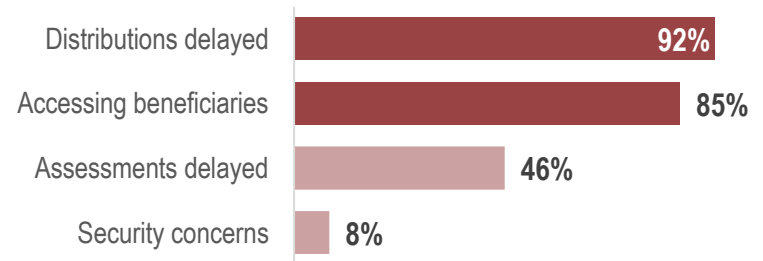
➤ **65%** of assessed organisations reported **difficulties due to snow coverage**.

% of assessed organisations by reported largest challenges in meeting programme targets and goals



Based on a total of twenty responding organisations.

% of assessed organisations by reported difficulties due to snow coverage†



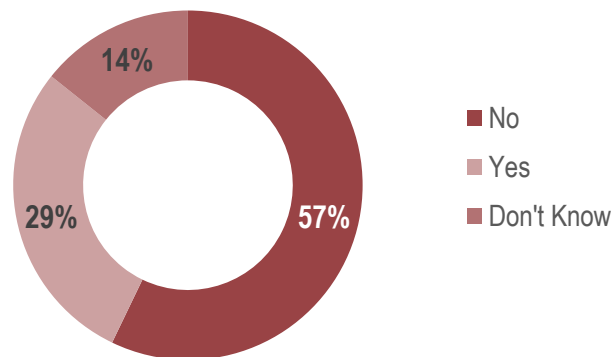
† Based on the subset of organisations that reported difficulties due to snow coverage.

# AAP / Verification\*

**All** of the assessed organisations reported having a functional **complaints mechanism**.

➤ Approximately **1237 complaints were reported** by assessed organizations to have been recorded.

% of assessed organisations reported receiving at least one complaint about misdirection of aid or corruption

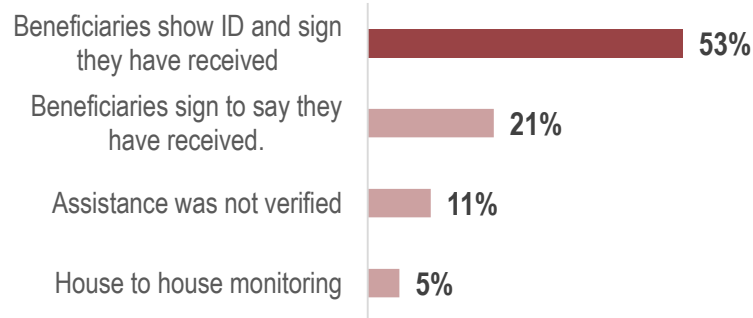


- **All** of the assessed organisations reported **having a staff member present** at every distribution.
- **All** of the assessed organisations reported having **conducted a PDM** for the winterization assessment.

• Based on a total of twenty responding organisations.

- **95%** of assessed organisations reported to have been clear on **who the target beneficiaries** were.
- **80%** of assessed organisations reported to have been clear on **where the target locations** were

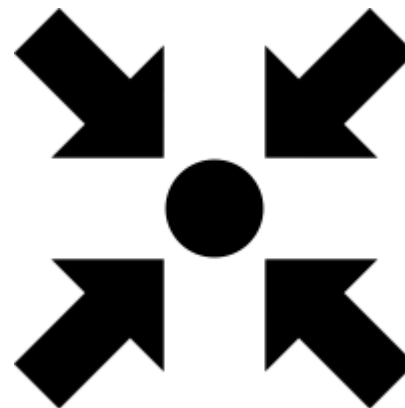
% of assessed organisations by reported aid recipient verification method



# Key Findings

## Coordination

---



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH**

Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action





# Coordination

- **Provincial Focal Points:** Provincial coordination structure was reported by KIs to be important. However, KIs noted that many focal points had **not been properly trained**, and were not always aware of their **roles and responsibilities**, making coordination at the provincial level inconsistent.
- **Non-ES/NFI Cluster members:** In some regions, KIs reported there were many **local organisations working outside the coordination of the cluster**. This raised concerns about **duplication** and potential problems rising from a **different types of aid or modalities being provided to the same population**.
- **Beneficiary selection criteria:** Beneficiary selection criteria was considered to have **excluded many vulnerable households**. Several KIs noted that the criteria should better account **for poverty and income related criteria**.
- **Allocation criteria:** Several regional KIs perceived that the **AHF allocation for their region was too small**, and did not provide aid to sufficient numbers of beneficiaries in the region. In addition, some KIs noted that **only certain caseloads were able to be assisted, irrespective of needs-based criteria**.





3

# Initial Conclusions



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH**

Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action



# Initial Thoughts

## EFFECTIVENESS OF ASSISTANCE

- **Beneficiaries reported an overall greater ability to meet their shelter and NFI needs than non-beneficiaries.** But they did not fare better across more inter-sectoral need indicators, reporting gaps in cross-cutting indicators including food security and healthcare.
- Beneficiary households were found to only be reported only slightly more likely to be considered vulnerable, as defined by the Joint Winterization Strategy, than their non-beneficiary counterpart, outlining **challenges of identifying those households most in-need of assistance.**
- IDP-returnee households in Badghis, refugees households in the South East, and IDP and host community households in the West reported the highest levels of vulnerability and need. **However, both partners and coordinators noted that these groups also received comprehensive coverage of aid, suggesting a lack of long-term effectiveness.**







# Initial Thoughts

## RESILIENCE & RECOVERY

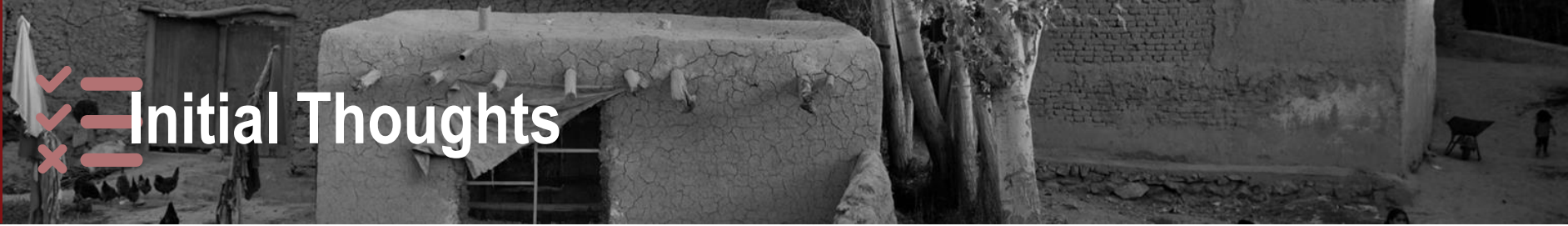
- **Lack of overall resilience** was suggested by coordination and household data. A **majority of both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households** reported cutting food and healthcare expenses in order to close shelter, NFI, and heating gaps.

- A major consequence of the lack of resilience for households was the debt trap. **Approximately 2/3 of households still had to take on debt** to survive the last winter and **only about 1/3 of those expected that they would be able to pay it back.**

- Beneficiaries reported an overall greater ability to meet their shelter and NFI needs than non-beneficiaries. However, the **lack of resiliency among the beneficiary population meant there were few long-term impacts after the aid was exhausted**, reflecting the approach of the current winterization response as emergency only.







# Initial Thoughts

## RESPONSE MODALITY

- Both restricted and unrestricted cash recipients reported spending money on things other than shelter and winterization items. Recipients of both cash modalities reported spending similar amounts of money on the same items, suggesting that the **restrictiveness of cash didn't have a strong effect on how it was spent.**
- **In-kind and voucher programmes** were found to be **more successful at addressing specific NFI winterization gaps**, but not as successful **at closing shelter gaps.**
- **Approximately 1/3 of households reported receiving additional winterization aid from other sources** during the last winter, and almost 40% reported receiving non-ES/NFI aid from other organizations during the same timeframe. Given how needs of households were reported to have not been entirely met, increasing aid packages may not have a decisive effect on outcomes.





# Initial Thoughts

## OTHER IMPACT

- **In-kind distributions were reported to coincide with declines in the market price for similar winterization goods**, suggesting that in-kind distributions may have flooded markets. Additional market assessments are required to understand the affects of the winterization response on local markets.
- **A majority of beneficiary and non-beneficiary households reported either neutral or positive effects on the community at large**, suggesting that winterization aid to one household mostly provides positive externalities to the larger community.





4

## Discussion & Feedback



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH**

Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action



# Q & A



**Shelter Cluster Afghanistan**  
ShelterCluster.org  
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**REACH**

Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action