

AFGHANISTAN MULTI-CLUSTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT BRIEF

DECEMBER 2019

CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

This document highlights **key findings** from the **Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA)**¹ carried out in **Afghanistan** in 2019. The 2019 MCNA was conducted within the framework of the **Inter Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT)**, to provide a nationwide, impartial, and evidence-based overview and understanding of the **needs of recently crisis-affected** and **acutely vulnerable populations**, to further strategic planning within the **2020 Humanitarian Planning Cycle (HPC)**.

Findings presented in this brief are based on an analytical approach proposed by REACH for the 2019 MCNAs, which incorporates elements of the draft Joint Inter-Analysis Framework (JIAF), and on a **Multisectoral Needs Index (MSNI)** developed to classify a household's severity of needs in each sector. The index is based on the inability to meet immediate sectoral needs (Living Standards Gaps), the use of negative coping strategies (Capacity Gap), and household-level impact of the crisis, thus giving a **crisis-specific indication of the severity of needs**².

Within the framework of the ICCT, MCNA tools and indicators were developed following consultations with the relevant **11 clusters and sub-clusters** active in Afghanistan, in line, to the extent possible, with the draft JIAF. In parallel, the scope of the MCNA was decided following discussions with the ICCT, led by the **United Nations Office for the**

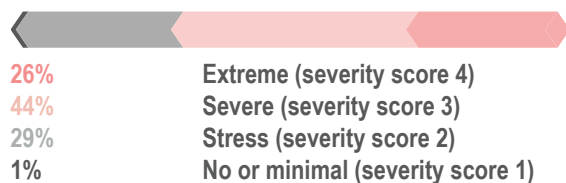
Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Preliminary findings were shared with and presented to OCHA and each cluster, following which a second round of sectoral and inter-sectoral analysis was conducted to inform strategic level planning in the HPC process.

In Afghanistan, this second round of MCNA was implemented through a **nationwide statistically representative household survey** for which data was collected between mid-July and mid-September 2019. A total of **31,343 displaced, non-displaced shock-affected, and host community** households across Afghanistan were surveyed. REACH, together with **8 local partners**, provided support to the ICCT by contributing to the data collection process, which covered all accessible areas throughout **34 provinces of Afghanistan** with a set threshold of target populations. Findings are generalisable with a 95% level of confidence and 10% margin of error for the displaced population (IDPs and cross-border returnees) in each province. Additionally, findings for all population groups are generalisable at the regional level with the same level of precision (95/5), with the exception of host community households (95/10 at the national level only).

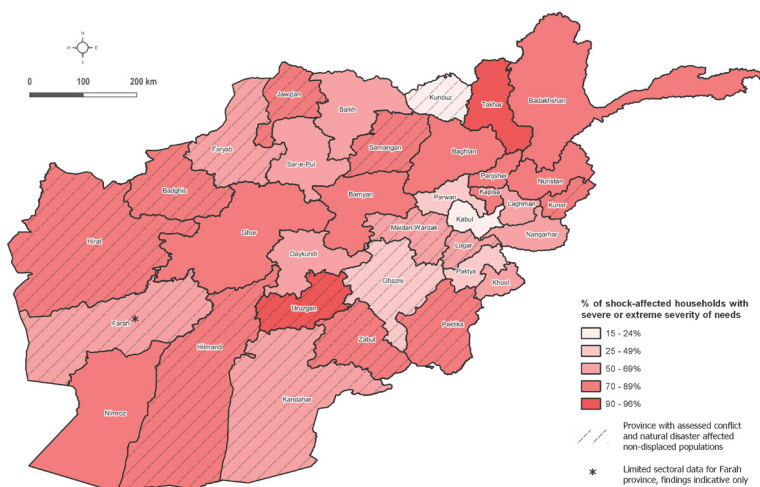
MULTISECTORAL NEEDS INDEX (MSNI)

70% of households were found to have severe or extreme severity of needs.³

% of households per severity of needs:



% of households with severe or extreme severity of needs, per district:



Drivers:⁴

71% of shock-affected households with severe or extreme severity of needs in Afghanistan had their needs driven by sectoral needs in **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**, and/or **food security and agriculture (FSA)**.



39% of shock-affected households with severe or extreme severity of needs had their needs driven by the use of **negative coping strategies** to cover basic needs.



32% of shock-affected households with severe or extreme severity of needs had their needs driven by sectoral needs in **health and protection**, and/or **health and shelter**, and/or **protection and shelter**.



30% of shock-affected households with severe or extreme severity of needs had their needs driven by sectoral needs in **health or shelter or protection**, and the **direct impact of the crisis**.



¹ Referred to as Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA) in-country.

² The MSNI and LSGs were contextualised to each crisis context which has to be considered when comparing crises.

³ MSNI severity score of at least 3.

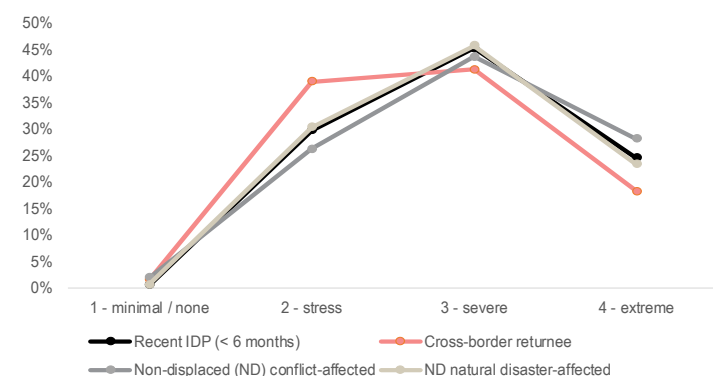
⁴ All drivers of severe or extreme severity of needs included in the MSNI, and not only the primary drivers.

POPULATION GROUPS

% of households with severe or extreme severity of needs, per population group:

Recent IDP (< 6 months)	70%	
Non-recent IDP (≥ 6 months)	74%	
IDP returnee (in Badghis)	91%	
Cross-border returnee	60%	
Pakistani returnee (South East)	57%	
Non displaced (ND) conflict-affected	72%	
ND natural disaster-affected	69%	
ND conflict & disaster-affected	74%	
Host community	60%	

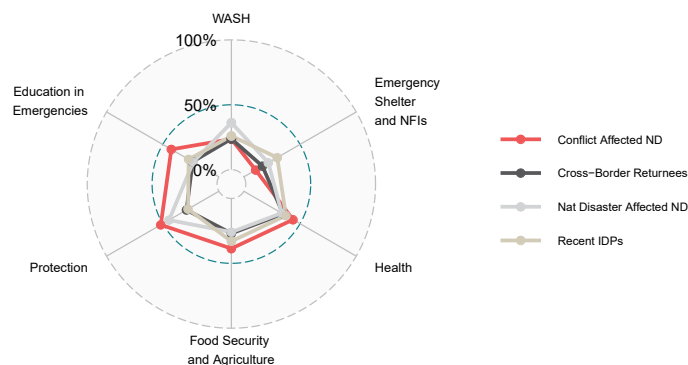
% of households, by severity of needs per population group:



SECTORAL NEEDS

80% of households were found to have severe or extreme sectoral needs in one or more sectors.⁵

% of households with severe or extreme sectoral needs, per population group:



Most population groups were found to have **similar needs profiles**, with considerable proportions of households having severe or extreme sectoral needs. Higher proportions of **non-displaced conflict-affected households** were found to have severe or extreme needs **across sectors overall**, except in **emergency shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)** and **WASH** in which higher proportions of **recent IDP and natural disaster affected non-displaced households**, respectively, had severe or extreme sectoral needs.

⁵ LSG severity score of at least 3.

MCNA TIMELINE



IMPACT OF MCNA FINDINGS

112 data points in the 2020 HNO

21 mentions (not data-related)

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