

The Cluster was activated in March 2008 with UNHCR as the lead Agency supported by IOM as the co-chair. The cluster meets monthly at the national level while meetings at the provincial level are based on needs. It has more than 50 members and operates in almost all provinces.

Goal and Objectives

The primary goal of the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Cluster in Afghanistan is to coordinate timely response and provision of life saving assistance in meeting the shelter and basic household needs of the most vulnerable affected population.

For 2018, the Cluster has three objectives that are linked to the overall Strategic Objectives of the Humanitarian Response Plan

- **Cluster Objective 1:** Ensure timely, adequate access to shelter and non-food items for vulnerable internally displaced and returnees
- **Cluster Objective 2:** Ensure that the living conditions of vulnerable people are improved.
- **Cluster Objective 3:** Ensure adequate response capacity through preparedness measures and prepositioning of emergency shelters and Non-Food Items



Photo credit © UNHCR Herat

A drought affected displaced family to Herat province, Injil district.



Photo credit © CRDSA

Flood affected houses in Badghis province, Muqur district

Key Cluster priorities

The strategic priorities of the Cluster are geared towards achieving protection outcomes through the integration of cross-cutting issues related HLP, Protection, Gender, Age, Disability and Accountability to the Affected Population.

- Access to basic lifesaving services through the provision of emergency shelter and NFIs including winterization assistance
- Mitigate further protection risks to allow safer and dignified living conditions
- Adequate coordination and response capacities in the field including contingency plan, prepositioning of emergency shelter and NFIs in strategic locations, capacity building, strengthening coordination mechanisms at field level
- Monitoring and reporting including assessments, information management products and post distribution monitoring

- Support efforts towards durable solutions through the provision of tools, materials and technical support for transitional shelter construction, integrated programming with other clusters, linkages with livelihood actors and advocacy, strengthen coordination with authorities

Key challenges:

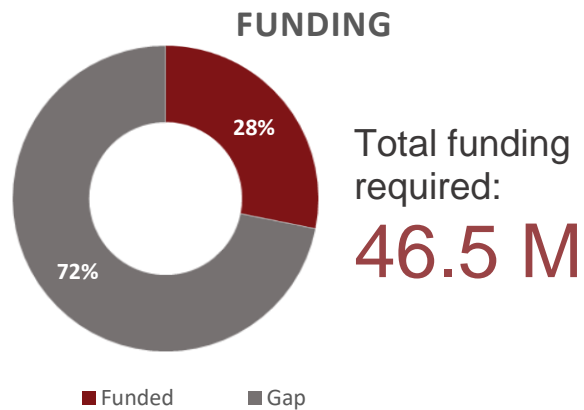
- The lack of livelihood opportunities continued to hamper access to adequate shelter while the cost of rent is increasing.
- Urban displacement and informal settlements are increasing with the lack of durable solutions
- Access to land remains a substantial concern and impediment to shelter assistance. With the approval of land decree, some improvements may be expected.

Achievements

The ESNFI Cluster total budgetary requirements is \$46.5m of which \$ 13.09m has so far been received. This includes funding from bilateral donors and the common humanitarian funding mechanisms.

As of 01 January - August 2018, the Cluster responded to various ES/NFI needs of approximately **487,410 individuals** against its total target of 0.7 million individuals in 2018. In support of post emergency response, about 40% of the assisted population received additional in-kind/cash assistance for shelter and NFI.

- ✓ 60,000 people received emergency shelter assistance
- ✓ 487,410 people received non-food items
- ✓ 10,908 people received support for upgrading/repairing of existing shelters
- ✓ 14,000 people were supported to construct one room transitional shelter



Drought affected IDPs assisted with emergency shelter packages

Drought affected IDPs are assessed for identifying the needs

Key things to know

Afghanistan, officially the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, is a landlocked country located within South Asia and Central Asia. The total population of the country in 1395 (2016 -17) is estimated to be at 29.2 million persons¹ with 34 provinces.

According to UNHCR and IOM, more than 527,307 persons returned (documented and undocumented) to Afghanistan as of January to August 2018.

Ongoing conflict and natural disaster were the key drivers of humanitarian needs during the reporting period (01 January – 31 August 2018).

Approximately 200,000 individuals displaced by conflict were in need of emergency shelter and NFI assistance mainly in Jawzjan, Faryab, Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan Provinces, the north and northeast regions of Afghanistan. In 46 hard to reach conflict-affected districts, families are living in precarious shelter conditions. Most of the shelters are partially damaged which do not protect the families from the elements including their privacy and safety. This is compounded with overcrowded conditions resulting to some families sharing same accommodation with their livestock. This is particularly a concern for women and girls.

All 59,136 individuals affected by mainly flash flood particularly in the northern and eastern regions were in need of NFIs. Of the 59,136 individuals affected, 19,425 individuals whose homes were completely destroyed needed emergency shelter while 39,453 individuals needed assistance to repair their damaged shelters.

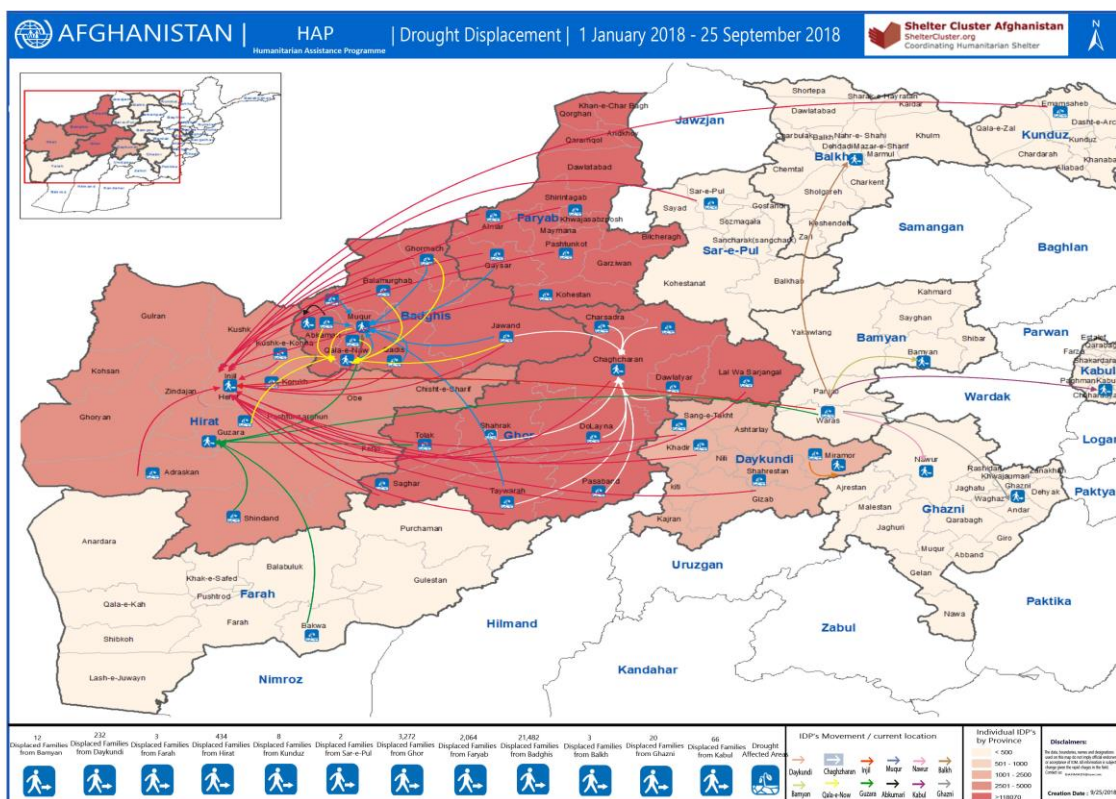
Moreover, 235,000 IDP families assessed in Herat and Badghis provinces who are displaced mostly from Badghis, Ghor and Dykundi provinces due to drought and are in need of emergency shelter and NFIs. Drought has affected many provinces of the country mostly in the west and southern part that in the worst case, people flee their homes and displace to bigger cities with better livelihood opportunities. Response is on-going by providing cash for NFI and in-kind NFI packages and emergency shelter kits.

KEY NUMBERS

437,833 New IDPs from Jan-August 2018

527,307 Persons returned from other countries from Jan-August 2018

636 Informal settlements across the country



¹ Central Statistics Organization (CSO), Afghanistan

ES/NFI Cluster Coordination Structure

Sub-National Level

As per the inter-cluster humanitarian structure to enhance coordination, Afghanistan is divided into Regions. This is not in line with the government administrative structure as each of the 34 Provinces have its individual administrative structures which is governed by a Provincial Governor.

In line with the above mentioned inter-cluster structure, the ES/NFI Cluster established seven sub-national levels or Regional Coordination Mechanisms (Central Highlands, Central, Southeast, Northeast/North, South, West and East). Each of the Regions has a focal point. Six out of the seven is chaired and co-chaired by UNHCR and IOM while one is chaired and co-chaired by IOM and IRC.

The Cluster took further measures to establish Provincial coordination mechanisms represented by Provincial Focal Points to enhance the overall sub-national coordination with partners and government. The Provincial Focal Points are comprised of National and International NGOs who have presence and are operational in the various Provinces. The Provincial Focal Points represent the Cluster and coordinates ES/NFI activities at the Provincial level.

The Cluster established Technical Working Groups (TWiG) based on the needs at the national and subnational levels. The Winterization Working Group is activated and working on finalizing the winterization strategy for winter assistance for 2018/2019 winter. Approx. 500,000 people will need winterization support. The assistance is geared towards supporting heating materials with an equivalent of \$200 per family to cover three months (Dec 2018 – Feb 2019) of harsh winter.

The working group is coordinated by MoRR and ANDMA with support from UNHCR and IOM at national and provincial levels.

National Level

- Cluster Coordinator (UNHCR)
Martha Kow-Donkor
- Deputy Cluster Coordinator (UNHCR)
Mohammad Baqir Haidari
- Cluster Co-Chair (IOM)
Ahmadi Gul Mohammad
- Information Management Officer (UNHCR/IMMAP)
Kedir Shemsu Mohamed
- Government Counterparts: Ministry of Returnee and Repatriation (MoRR)
- Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA),
- Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation Development (MRRD)

Shelter cluster Partners in Afghanistan

ACF | ACTED | ADRA | AFGHAN AID | AIESO | ARCS | CARE | CARITAS GERMANY | CHRISTIAN AID | CONCERN | CORDAID | DRC | FOCUS | HI | HRDA | IRC | iMMAP | IMC | IOM | ISLAMIC RELIEF | MISSION EAST | NAC | NCA | NCRO | NOMAD CONCEPT GROUP (private sector) | NRC | PIN | PU-AMI | QRCS | REACH | RELIEF INT | SAMUEL HALL | SAVE THE CHILDREN | SHELTER FOR LIFE | SOLIDARITE INT | UNICEF | UNHCR | UN-HABITAT | WAR CHILD | WELTHUNGERHILFE | ZOA

Donors Funding Emergency Shelter and NFIs activities in Afghanistan

AAR JAPAN | CAID | CHF | CERF | CORDAID MENSEN IN NOOD | DANIDA | DUTCH MoFA | ECHO | GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA | IR- AUSTRALIA | IR- UK | IR -USA | NCA | OFDA | SIDA | STAR FUND | STICHTING VLUCHTELING (SV) | USAID