



Regional Monthly Update

March 2024

KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES



ES/NFI partners have reached more than 1.2m people (61 per cent) with seasonal winter assistance across the country. 41 partners are involved in the winterization response across the country, all prioritizing a range of solutions including the provision of fuel and heaters, winter clothing, blankets, shelter repair and rental support.



Results from the Multi-Sectoral Rapid Needs Assessment (MRAT) on returnees and the host populations underscores significant need for targeted shelter assistance with most returnees ranking shelter as a top priority after food and cash assistance. Returning families have expressed need for support to construct shelters (48%), cash support for rent (40%), and shelter materials (32%). Concerns on leaking (44%), lack of insulation (35%), and insufficient living space (31%) are widespread and compounded further by the recent floods.

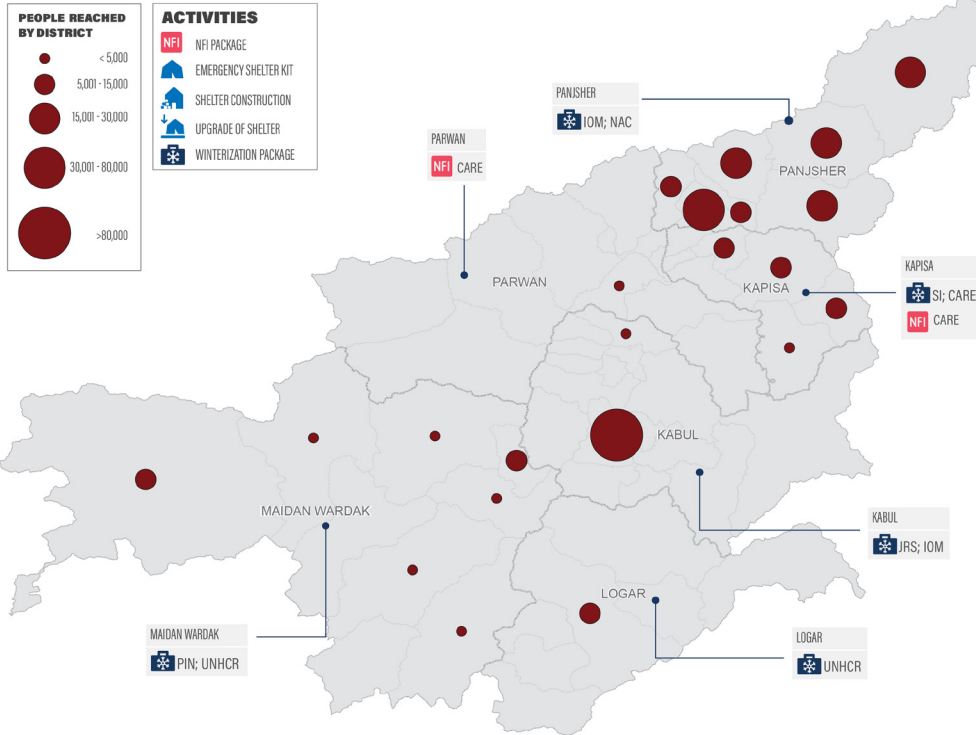


During period 1-31 March, heavy rainfall, flash floods incidents have affected 18 provinces across 6 regions of Afghanistan. More than 1,466 shelters have either been destroyed or severely damaged across 103 districts.



Partners continue to report critical resource constraints owing to multiple emergencies, lack of funding, and depleted stockpiles to address existing gaps for returnees and emerging needs from floods. The Cluster regional stockpiles for repair tool kit are severely diminished and partners have no capacity to adequately support families affected by the recent heavy rains and flash floods.

Capital



In 2024 (HRP & ReportHub data)

243,136

PLANNED REACH

134,359 (55%)

BENEFICIARIES REACHED

| Winterization | Non-Food Items | Transitional Shelter | Emergency Shelter Assistance | Upgrade and shelter repair |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 139,123 | 556 | - | - | - |

Number of new individuals reached during the current month

Needs Analysis

- IOM, Care International, PiN, ACHRO, and WSTA have conducted needs assessments in the central region for winter assistance. Due to a recent influx of returnees from Pakistan, gaps exist on shelter and winter assistance.

Response:

- In central region, as per the winterization strategy 2023-2024; the total number of planned families to receive the winter assistance were 25,352 out of which, 24,080 families (94.98%) have been assessed by ESNFI Cluster partners while 22,810 families (89.97%) have been assisted by different partners and received different modalities of winter assistance.
- During the reporting month, IOM concluded the winter assistance distribution to 7,020 families of various districts and PDs of Kabul province. IOM provided 200 USD or the equivalent in AFN, along with ES-NFI Cluster Standard Blankets package and a winter clothing module to each family. Additionally, IOM provided cash assistance for rent to 500 families in Kabul province as well.
- In addition, ES-NFI Cluster Partners have provided winter assistance to 2,500 families in the central region. Out of these 2,500 families, IOM provided winter assistance to 2,000 families in Kabul province. The remaining 500 families of returnees were assisted by IRC and ActionAid.
- ES-NFI Cluster Partner DHSA has completed its first cash installment to 450 shelter beneficiaries in Kapisa province, specifically in Kohband and Hesa-i-Du districts. Additionally, the shelters being constructed are regularly monitored by DHSA's technical and engineering teams to provide support to beneficiaries and ensure construction is in accordance with the BoQ and drawings.
- Similarly, IOM, DRC, and UNICEF responded to the natural disaster affected families in the central region across various provinces. IOM provided cash for NFI, amounting 9,200 AFN, DRC provided reduced MPCA in the amount of 130 USD or the equivalent of 9,100 AFN, and UNICEF supplied hygiene kits to all affected families. The distribution details are as follows:

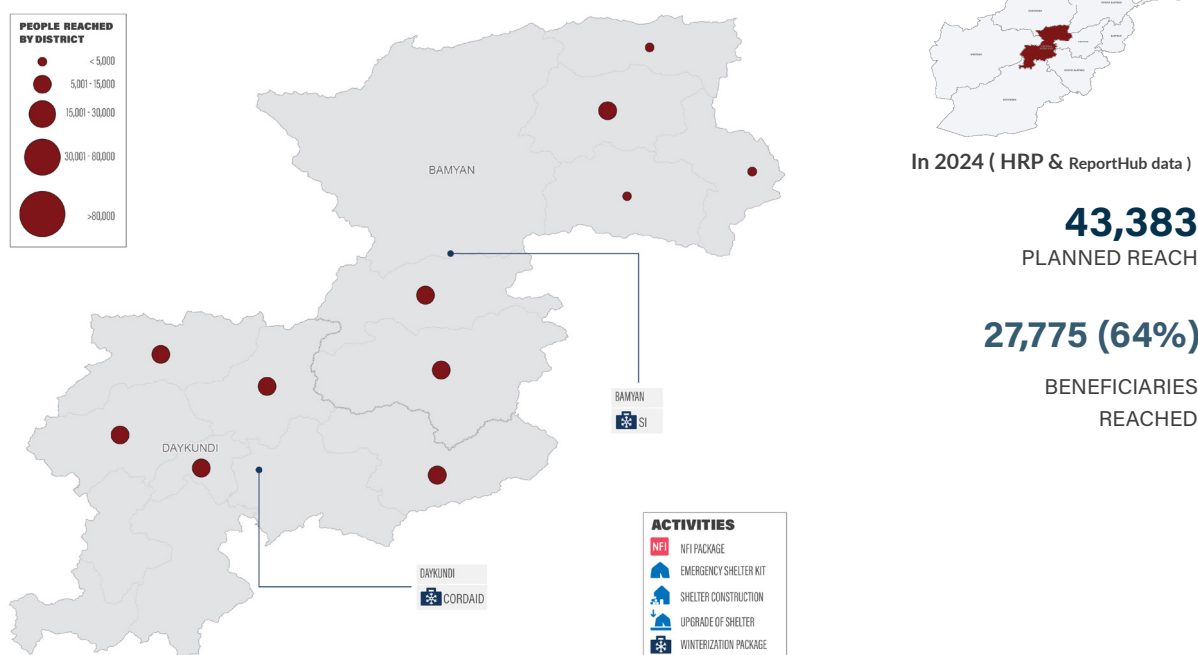
- » Panjshir: 20 households
- » Parwan: 67 households
- » Kabul: 43 households
- » Kapisa: 41 households

- ES-NFI Cluster partner PiN also distributed winter assistance to a total of 1,079 families across four different districts (Markaz-e-Behsood, Hesa-i-Awal, Jalrez, and Nerkh) of Maidan Wardak province in the central region. Additionally, ESNFI Cluster partner WSTA /UNHCR distributed winter assistance to a total of 1,024 families in Logar and 997 families in Maidan Wardak provinces. WSTA provided each family with 274 USD or the equivalent in AFN as cash assistance.

Gaps / Challenges

- ACHRO encountered fluctuations in the value of the dollar against the Afghani. To address this issue, the partner in coordination with donors, opted to distribute cash instead of NFI winter assistance.
- WSTA encountered some issues from the DFA side, and consequently, they paused their winterization needs assessment in Logar province. Discussion with the authorities is currently ongoing and its anticipated that the assessment will resume soon.
- DHSA received its first cash installment for a shelter project funded by AHF extremely late, resulting in a delay in its operations. They have requested AHF and the Cluster team to provide them with a cost extension for the next three months.
- PiN reported that during the winterization needs assessment, their teams found that many families in Maidan Wardak remain in need of winterization assistance. They have requested the regional cluster to identify another agency to intervene and fill the gaps.
- The significant influx of returnees to the Northeastern Region presents a pressing challenge. There is a notable lack of resources to adequately support these returnees, particularly in terms of their shelter and winterization needs. Addressing these shortages effectively is imperative to meet the immediate needs of the affected population.

Central Highland



| Winterization | Non-Food Items | Transitional Shelter | Emergency Shelter Assistance | Upgrade and shelter repair |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 29,208 | - | - | - | - |

29,208

Number of new individuals reached during the current month

Needs Analysis

- CORDAID conducted needs assessment for winterization assistance in Ashterlay , Khedir , Miramor , Nili and Sange-takht district of Daikundi province, and selected 1,650 households eligible for winterization assistance.
- In Bamiyan province UNHCR /WSTA has conducted need assessment for shelter beneficiary, in Yakawlang#1 district and center of Bamiyan city and identified around 158 IDP, returnees and host community households eligible for shelter assistance.

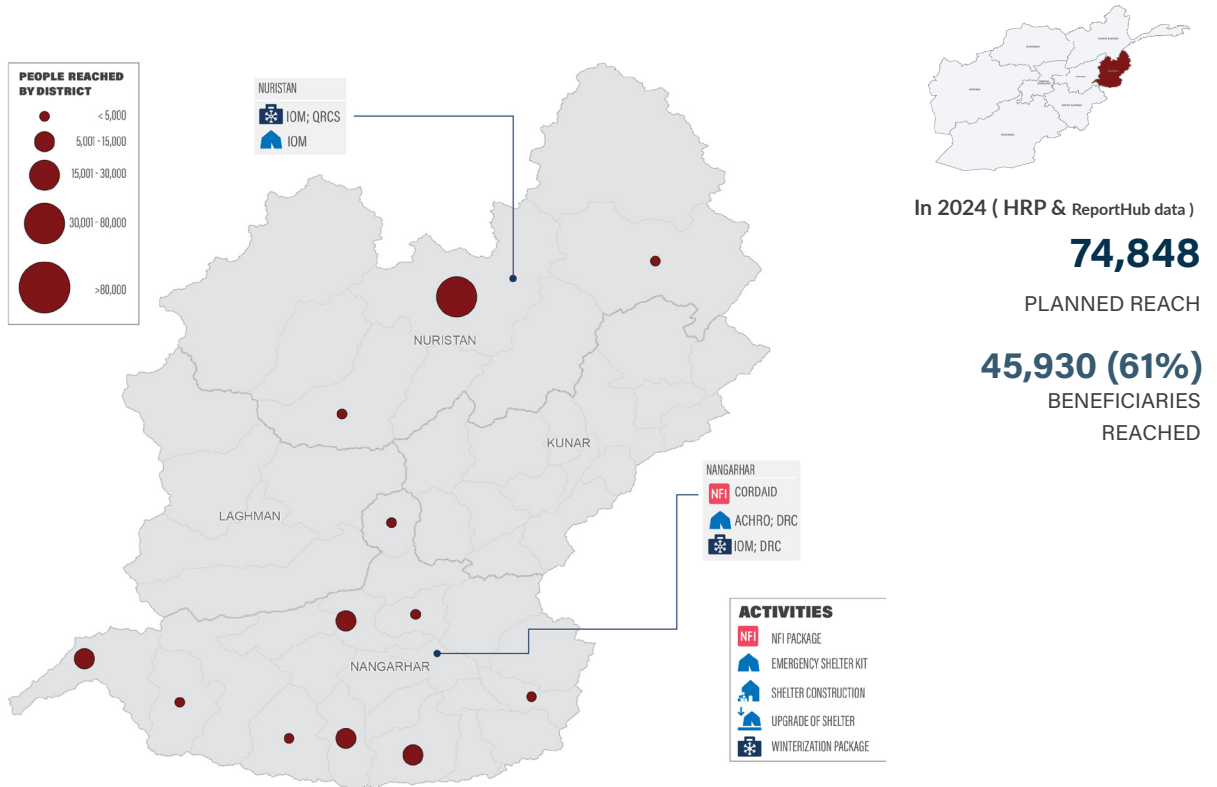
Response

- During the reporting period, the following organizations provided winterization assistance in Bamiyan province:
- UNWOMEN distributed heating /fuel support (200 USD for heating material and 20 USD for transportation cost) in Waras, Kahmard Sighan and Panjab districts to 1,060 IDPs and host communities' households.
- IRC has distributed winterization standard package (200 USD for heating material, 74 USD for winter cloth and 57 USD for Blanket for 312 eligible IDP and host community households in center of Bamiyan.
- SI has distributed winterization standard package (200 USD for heating material, 74 USD for winter cloth and 57 USD for Blanket) /family for 1,130 households (278 in center of Bamiyan, 569 in Yakwlang and 569 Waras) districts targeting IDPs, and host communities.
- CORDAID has distributed winterization standard package (200 USD for heating material, 74 USD for winter cloth and 57 USD for Blanket for 1,650 eligible households in five districts (330 in Khader, 154 in Saighan, 263 in Panjab and 345 in Kahmard districts) targeting IDPs, returnees and host communities.

Gaps / Challenges

- Delay in signing of MoU with DfAs at the national level.
- Ban on female working by DFA is the major challenge in the region.

Eastern



| Winterization | Non-Food Items | Transitional Shelter | Emergency Shelter Assistance | Upgrade and shelter repair |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 34,401 | 4,338 | 239 | - | 9,111 |

Number of new individuals reached during the current month

Needs Analysis

Nangarhar province:

- ACTED and ANDMA identified 100 families for winterization assistance in Nangarhar Province.
- IMC and ANDMA initiated assessment and will target the fresh returnees' families with winter clothing and blankets. As per the IMC assistance capacity, a total of 700 families will be identified for the said assistance.
- DRC and ANDMA identified 100 families for winter assistance.
- IOM, DRC, WFP, ACTED and ANDMA identified 5 heavy rainfall/flood-affected families in need of humanitarian assistance.
- A joint assessment team, consisted of DRC and ANDMA identified 6 families in need of winter assistance, 212 families in need of shelter repair assistance, 61 families in need transitional shelter support and 22 families in need of cash for rent (CfR) assistance.

Kunar Province:

- A joint assessment team constituting of IOM, DRC and WFP identified 9 earthquake-and domestic fire-affected families in need of humanitarian assistance.
- DRC and ANDMA identified 47 families in need of shelter assistance including (25 families requiring transitional shelter support and 22 families in need of shelter repair/upgrading assistance). NCA/ADA and ANDMA identified 644 families in need of winter assistance.
- A joint assessment team constituting of IOM, WFP, SCI, ARCs, DRC, and ANDMA identified 8 heavy rainfall-affected families in need of humanitarian assistance.

Laghman Province:

- IOM and WFP identified 17 earthquake-and domestic fire-affected families in need of humanitarian assistance. NCA/ADA and ANDMA identified 417 families in need of winterization assistance. A joint assessment team constituting of IOM, WFP and ANDMA identified 29 heavy rainfall-affected families in need of humanitarian assistance.

Response**Nangarhar Province:**

- IOM distributed NFIs to 3 fire, 3 earthquake affected families and further provided winter assistance to 2,650 families in Nangarhar province.
- UN-HABITAT distributed winter assistance to 400 families and delivered capacity-building/awareness sessions on, shelter repair and construction techniques to beneficiaries selected for shelter project. The training session was attended by 260 individuals (200 males and 60 females).
- IMC trained their newly hired team on using the HEAT form and applying the vulnerability criteria through KOBO.

Kunar Province:

- NCA distributed winter assistance to 588 families in Kunar province.
- UN-HABITAT distributed winter assistance to 200 families and delivered capacity-building/awareness sessions on shelter repair and construction techniques to beneficiaries selected for shelter project. The training session was attended by 80 individuals (Male participants only).

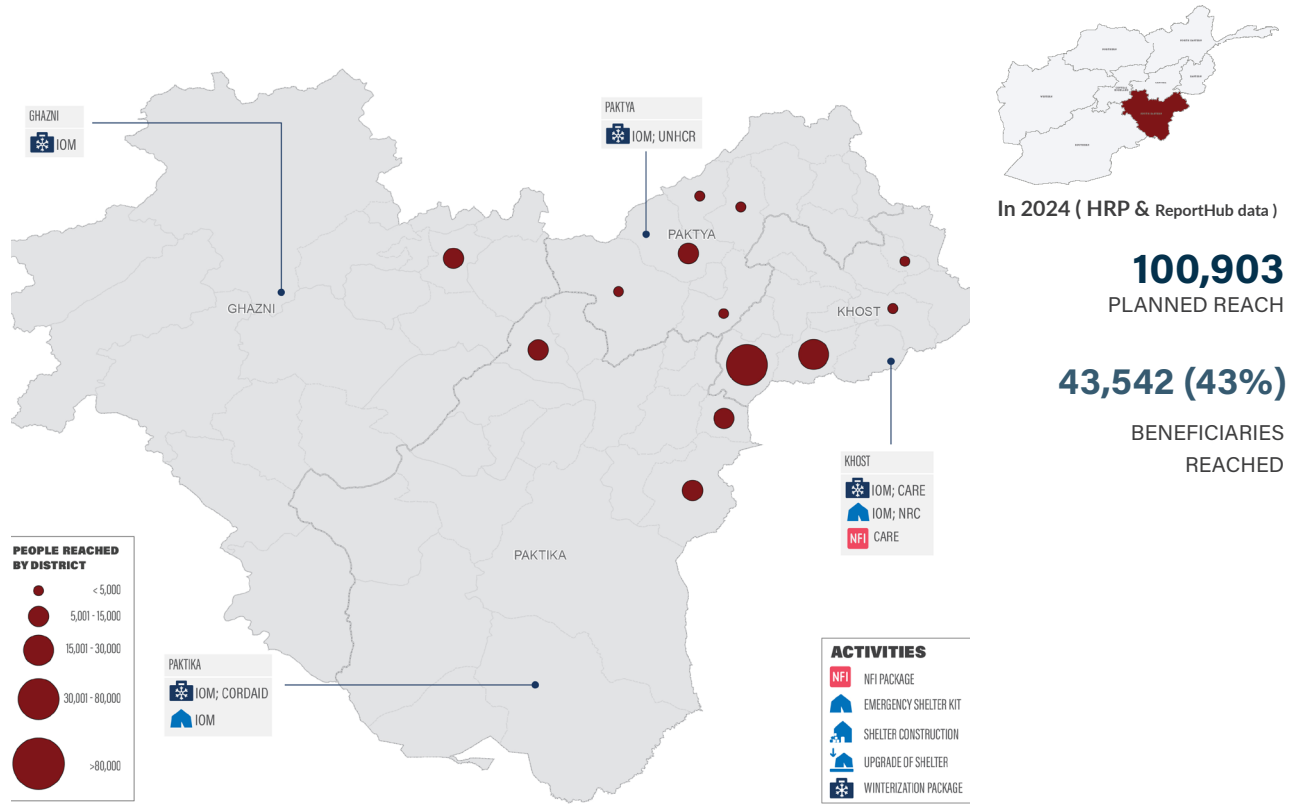
Laghman Province:

- IRC distributed winter assistance to 283 families, each family received AFN 23,000.
- UN-HABITAT distributed winter assistance to 200 families and delivered capacity-building/awareness sessions on shelter repair and construction techniques to beneficiaries selected for shelter project. The training session was attended by 70 individuals (40 males and 30 females).
- NCA distributed winter assistance to 747 families.

Gaps / Challenges

- The main challenge was lack of support and delay from MoRR, and Provincial DoRR on sharing the returnees' lists and issuing of permission to initiate the assessments to select the eligible returnee families. This delay was resolved by approaching the Ministry of Economy, and Provincial Governor Offices who issued a directive to the Provincial DoRRs to permit the partners to start the assessments, and response.
- Partner reported extensive needs for shelter, winterization, NFI, emergency shelter kits and other multisectoral gaps for new returnees. A need assessment is recommended to identify sectorial needs.
- It was noted that the regional winterization capacity of the partners is less than the needs of the new returnee families.
- DFA interference in the assessment and distribution of humanitarian assistance, was noted.
- Duplication in winterization. The sub-national cluster is vigilant in cross-checking the beneficiaries to avoid duplication.
- Significant need for emergency shelter and rental subsidy for the high number of returnees in the region.
- Due to limitations imposed by the current government on women's activities, the assessment teams lack female staff which has made it very difficult to identify most vulnerable women beneficiaries for assistance. Similarly, women's presence in the distribution is also limited.
- The registration process for projects is slow at the ministry level, resulting in delays and with impact on project timelines, particularly for winterization and shelter activities.

Southeastern



| Winterization | Non-Food Items | Transitional Shelter | Emergency Shelter Assistance | Upgrade and shelter repair |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 37,106 | - | 112 | - | 829 |

Number of new individuals reached during the current month

Needs Analysis

- **Ghazni:** A joint assessment team led by DRC and including CARE, PUMAI, UNICEF, WFP, WSTA and DoRR was initiated to Ghazni City and Andar districts to identify the needs of recent forced returnees from Pakistan. Though MRAT was used for assessment, partners equally utilized their own household assessment tools. The assessment was concluded in March and identified 409 households in Ghazni city and 100 households in Andar district eligible for humanitarian assistance. These were undocumented returnees and most vulnerable families. The JATs recommended emergency relief items including basic NFIs, emergency shelter repair toolkit and MPCA.
- In coordination with OCT and PDMC, a joint assessment team led by IOM including DRC, ARADA/WFP, CARE Int., UNICEF and ANDMA commenced a need assessment for families reportedly affected by heavy rainfall and flash floods in different parts of Ghazni center. The assessment which was concluded on 21-Mar. 2024 assessed 450 households and identified 98 families eligible for shelter and NFIs assistance. The MRAT tool was used for the assessment.
- **Khost:** A MRAT assessment was conducted to identify the needs of undocumented returnees in Khost. The assessment, which was led by IRC and included WFP, UNICEF and DoRR identified 1,005 returnees and most vulnerable households in 12 districts of Khost province. Emergency relief items including Emergency Shelter and NFIs are recommended for the families.
- CARE International concluded winterization assessment in Tani and Spera districts of Khost. A total of 1,708 households were selected in both districts, 854 families in each district. The project was funded by AHF and targeted mainly the families previously affected by the earthquake in June 2022.
- **Paktika:** A MRAT assessment led by DRC undocumented returnees, concluded the first phase, and identified 589 returnees and most vulnerable households eligible for humanitarian assistance. The assessment conducted in Center Sharana and very remote districts including Warmomy, Tarwu and Wazekhwa of Paktika province. The joint assessment team recommended NFIs and emergency shelter repair toolkits for 241 families in Wormamy district, 276 families in Tarwu and Wazekhwa while 72 families in Sharana.
- **Paktya:** Based on PDMC meeting, a joint assessment team led by IOM, including ANDMA, WFP and UNICEF assessed 90 families and verified 24 families eligible for humanitarian assistance recently affected by rainfalls and flash floods in different areas of Gardez. The JAT recommended the distribution of relief items including basic NFIs and emergency shelter kit.

Response

Winterization:

- As of 31 March 2024, the planned winterization response has been concluded in all provinces of Southeast region with total 6,465 households reached with standard winter assistance by different cluster partners, including IOM, UNHCR, IRC, DRC, CARE International.
- IOM provided standard winter assistance to 1,775 families across the region including 300 families in Paktika, 200 families in Khost, 660 families in Paktya and 615 families in Ghazni.

- DRC provided winter assistance to 800 families in Paktika and Ghazni provinces including 500 in remote Gomal and Warhmany districts of Paktika while 549 families in remote Ajarastan district of Ghazni.
- OHW/Cordaid provided winter assistance to 600 families in Barmal district of Paktika. The assistance targeted families affected by the earthquake in June 2022.
- CARE international provided cash for rent to 100 families in Ghazni and provided winter assistance to 100 families in Paktya province. In addition, the partner also covered 1,707 families in Tanai and Spera district with AHF funded project. The selected families were affected by earthquake events in Khost in June 2022 in the said districts.
- IRC provided winter assistance to 300 families in Syed Karam and Ahmad Abad districts of Paktya.
- UNHCR provided winter assistance to 1,082 families in Giyan district. These families were affected by earthquake events in June 2022, and remain in damaged shelters.
- IOM distributed NFIs and emergency shelters to 98 families in Ghazni and 24 families in Paktya province. The families were affected by recent rain and flash floods.
- DRC provided MPCA to 407 returnee families in Ghazni and 517 families in Paktika province during March.

Gaps / Challenges

- Based on the results of the JAT of needs for returnees in Khost, Paktika and Ghazni, where 2,103 returnees families were assessed, the cluster noted significant NFI and emergency shelter gaps
- MRAT Returnees Assessment is on-hold in Paktya due to female participation refusal by provincial DFA.

Northern



In 2024 (HRP & ReportHub data)

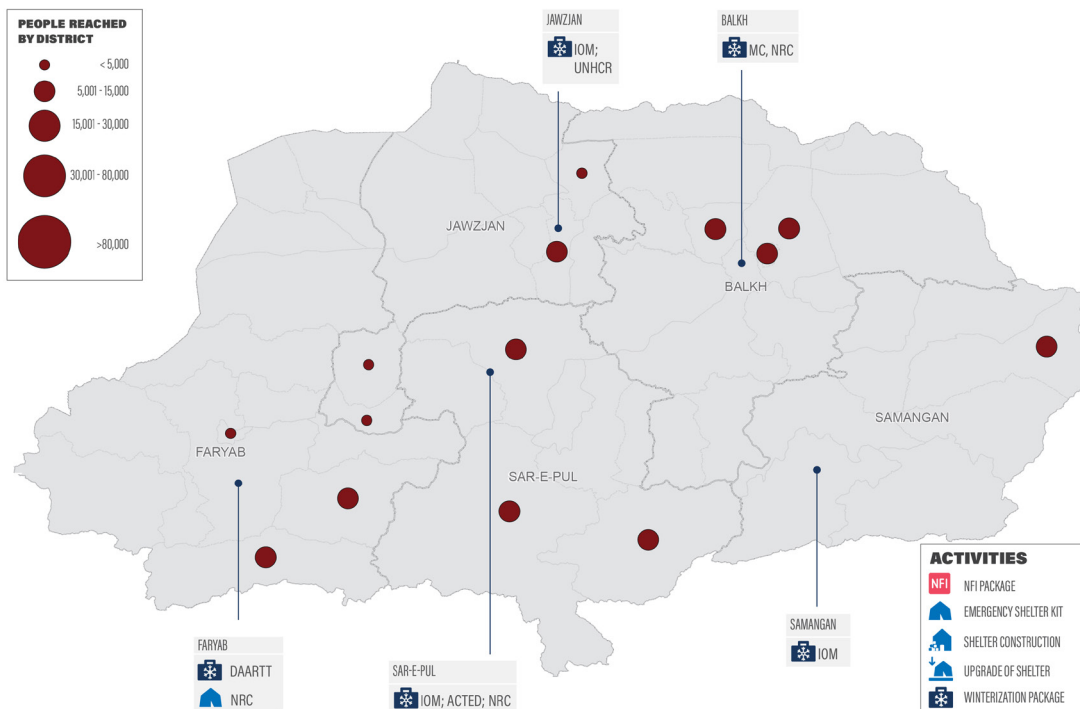
194,415

PLANNED REACH

24,439 (13%)

BENEFICIARIES

REACHED



| Winterization | Non-Food Items | Transitional Shelter | Emergency Shelter Assistance | Upgrade and shelter repair |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 23,107 | - | 105 | - | 666 |

Number of new individuals reached during the current month

Needs Analysis

- NSTR

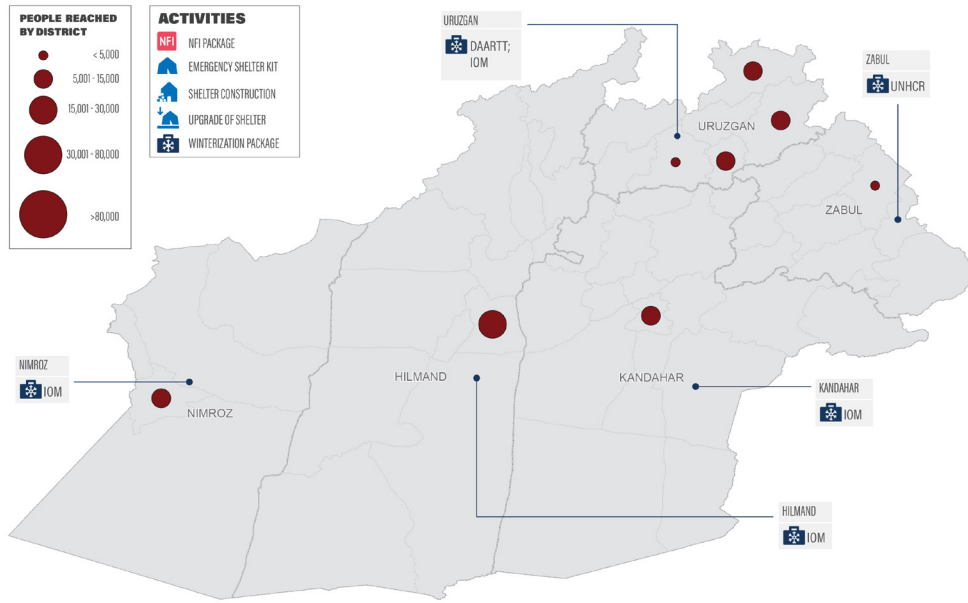
Response

- Winterization activities concluded in the northern region. Totally 9,767 families have been provided with winterization packages throughout the northern region. IOM, UNHCR, UNWOMEN, NRC, DAARTT, Mercy Corps are the organizations who contributed to the winterization response in the region. 2,655 families in Balkh, 2,033 families in Samangan, 2,359 families in Jawzjan, 1,000 families in Sari Pul and 1,720 families in are supported with the winterization packages.
- In response to the Natural disaster incident that occurred recently in the northern region, so far 156 families in Balkh, 184 families in Faryab and 9 families in Sari Pul are provided with necessary non-food items. Some cash for shelter repairs is also in the pipeline for the families affected by natural disaster both in Faryab and Balkh provinces.

Gaps / Challenges

- NSTR

Southern



In 2024 (HRP & ReportHub data)
146,935
PLANNED REACH
24,677 (17%)
BENEFICIARIES
REACHED

| Winterization | Non-Food Items | Transitional Shelter | Emergency Shelter Assistance | Upgrade and shelter repair |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 26,211 | - | - | - | - |

26,211

Number of new individuals reached during the current month

Needs Analysis

- During the month, DAARTT conducted a post distribution monitoring (PDM) survey for winterization assistance in Gizab district of Urozgan for 69 households.
- DRC carried out shelter assessment and verified 85 vulnerable households eligible for shelter minor repair assistance and verified 23 households eligible for transitional shelter assistance in Kakar district of Zabol.
- DRC conducted shelter assessment in Ghorak district of Kandahar and verified 54 households eligible for shelter repair assistance.
- IRW conducted the assessment in Arghistan district of Kandahar and verified 35 households eligible for transitional shelter and shelter repair.
- Joint needs assessment for heavy rainfall affected families was conducted in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabol, Urozgan provinces, led by IOM, consisted of UNHCR, WFP, IRC, DRC, and NRC and verified 454 households eligible for emergency assistance.
- UNHCR conducted the shelter assessment in Urozgan and verified 87 households eligible for permanent shelter.

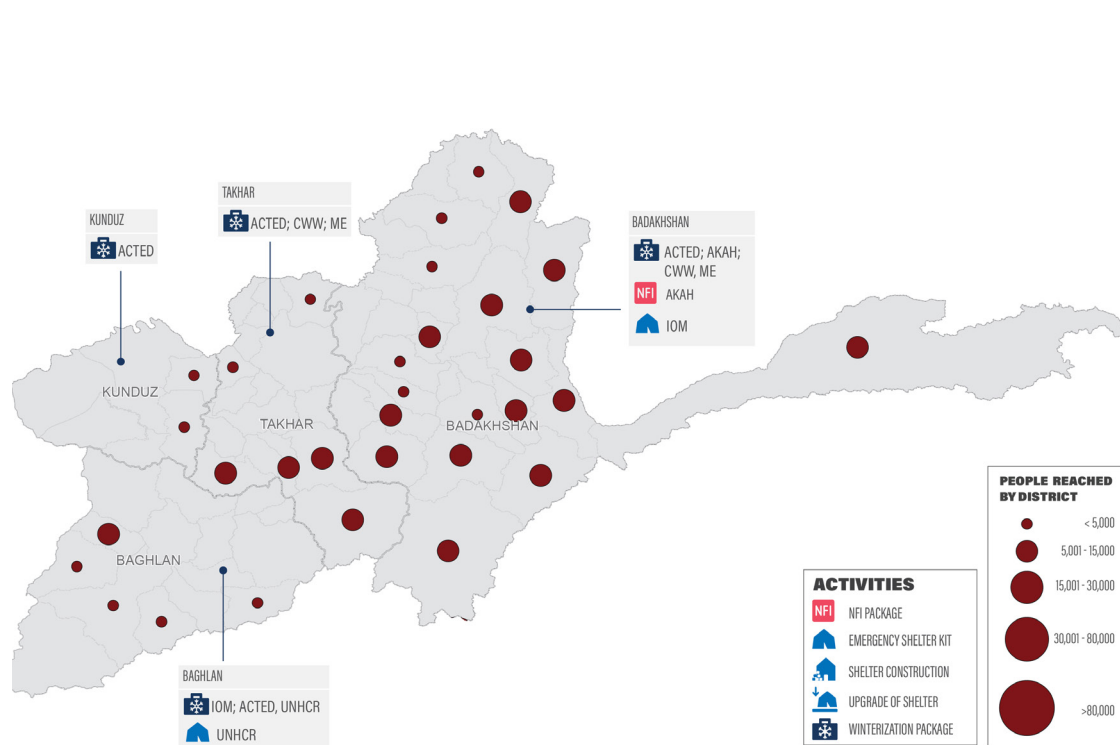
Response

- IOM distributed NFIs, winter clothing and emergency shelter repair kits to 454 households affected by heavy rainfall, verified through joint assessment teams in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabol and Urozgan provinces. In addition, IOM distributed cash for winterization to 41 beneficiaries and cash for rent to 73 households in Kandahar province.
- UN Women distributed cash for winter assistance to 300 women headed households in Kandahar province.
- UNHCR distributed cash for winterization assistance to 1,079 families in Zabol province and heater (Bukhari) to 1,750 families in Kandahar, Zabol and Urozgan provinces.
- IRW provided winterization kits to 63 households in Kandahar city.
- In Nimroz IOM distributed cash for NFIs to 660 (3,035 individuals) undocumented returnees through Milak border. In addition, the partner distributed cash for NFI to 203 undocumented returnees' households through Spin Boldak border, in Kandahar.

Gaps/Challenges

- UNHCR reported, provision of shelter assistance to women remains limited mainly due to lack of land ownership rights and they also reported that there was inadequate funding to cover all the available shelter needs.
- DARTT reported that signing the MoU with relevant ministries was taking longer than expected resulting in delays in project initiation.
- UN Women reported challenges with the referral mechanism. The partner cited slow response in sharing of beneficiaries lists by other UN agencies, resulting in an overall delay in delivery of winter assistance. In addition, UN women further mentioned that the winter assistance provided by the UN Women was not adequate to cover the number of families in need food and non-food items, hygiene, and dignity kits.
- DRC commented that the late inception of the shelter assessment was attributed to the cold and rainy weather conditions, in the districts. Equally in some areas, the roads were blocked.

Northeastern



In 2024 (HRP & ReportHub data)

339,622

PLANNED REACH

57,126 (17%)

BENEFICIARIES

REACHED

| Winterization | Non-Food Items | Transitional Shelter | Emergency Shelter Assistance | Upgrade and shelter repair |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 47,917 | 13,170 | - | - | 9,443 |

Number of new individuals reached during the current month

Needs Analysis

- Joint assessments are planned in Kunduz (Khanabad and outskirts of Kunduz districts), Takhar (Kalagan, Nahr I Saeed districts of Talogan city) after late March heavy rainfall and flash floods.
- WADAN has completed the assessment/beneficiary verification for shelter assistance to 1,528 families in five districts (Faizabad, Yawan, Khawhan, Shakai, Kohistan, Raghistan of Badakhshan province).

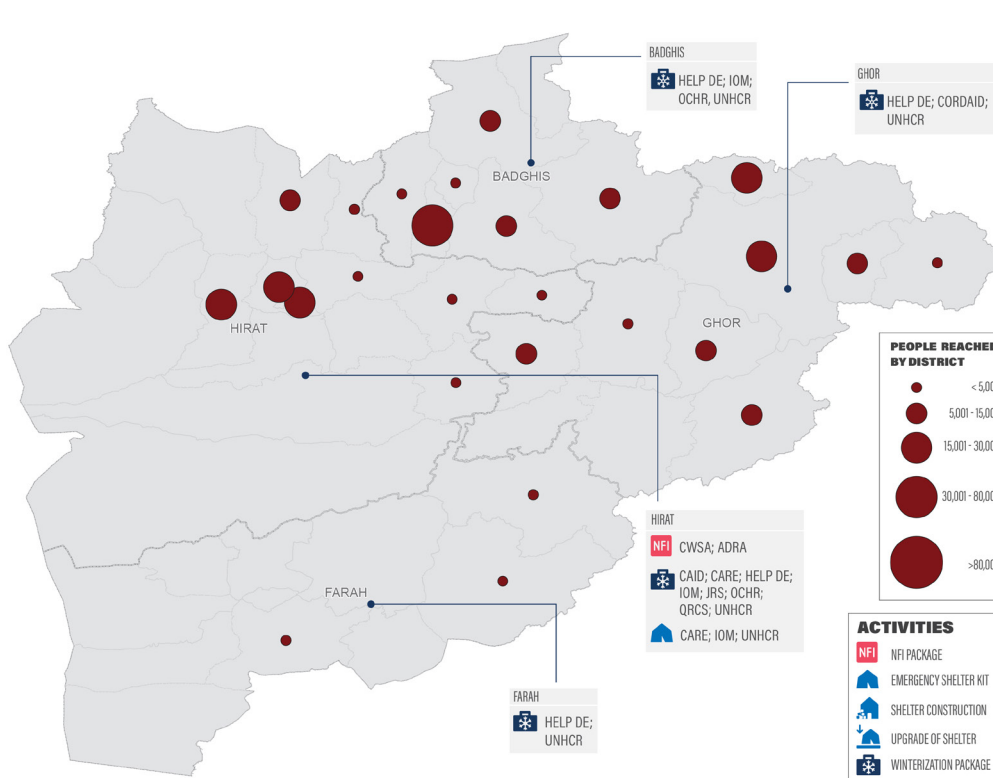
Response

- 107 families in Kunduz and 107 families in Baghlan provinces received NFIs assistance by NSDO.
- Mission East provided winterization assistance (cash for winter clothing and blanket) to 2,459 most vulnerable households in Takhar (520 households in Worsaj and 505 households in Namak Ab districts) and Badakhshan (378 households in Darwaz-e-Payeen, 421 households in Arghanjkhaw, 335 households in Darayem and 300 households in Jorm districts).
- IOM distributed cash and other NFI to 805 families who are either returnees, deportees or affected by natural disasters and other most vulnerable groups in Badakhshan province.
- IOM has also provided tents and NFIs to 3 natural disaster affected households in Kunduz.
- WADAN distributed cash for winterization to 80 families in Shakai district of Badakhshan province.
- Concern, (CWW) has completed distribution of winterization assistance in two districts of Takhar (413 Farkhar district) and Badakhshan (412 Yumgan district).
- AKAH has distributed cash and blankets to 1,041 families in Darwaz bala, Sheghnon, Eshkashem and Wakhan districts of Badakhshan.

Gaps / Challenges

- The major gap is the construction of transitional shelters and shelter repair for returnees from Pakistan and Iran in Kunduz, Baghlan and Takhar provinces of NER. In addition, for the 316-land slide affected families in Yawan district of Badakhshan, remain in urgent need of transitional shelter.

Western



In 2024 (HRP & ReportHub data)

545,465
PLANNED REACH

141,467 (26%)
BENEFICIARIES REACHED

| Winterization | Non-Food Items | Transitional Shelter | Emergency Shelter Assistance | Upgrade and shelter repair |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 127,328 | 11,949 | 32,790 | 8,793 | 3,648 |

Number of new individuals reached during the current month

Needs Analysis

- NRC reported high shelter needs in Bala Murghab district. No partner is on ground or has capacity to support.
- Needs assessment in Herat, Farah and Badghis provinces for the undocumented returnee families has been started.
- IOM has identified 1,026 Earthquake affected families eligible for transitional shelter after the completion of technical assessment in Zindajan and Injil districts.
- ARAA, a UNHCR partner, has conducted RHAF assessment for 2,631 IDPs, Returnees, and Host families in the WR provinces (133 in Injil and Zindajan districts and Herat city; 1,197 in Feroz Koh, Taywara, and Tolak districts of Ghor; 1,258 in Qala-e Naw district of Badghis; 43 in Farah city).
- UNDP undertook preliminary verification of earthquake-affected villages in Khusk District to facilitate the selection of villages for additional support to families whose houses were destroyed by the earthquake.
- ORCDG completed the technical assessment of fifty-three earthquake affected households and selected for transitional shelter support in Zindajan district.

Response

- IOM has provided winterization assistance to 8,232 households in Western region.
- UNDP concluded the construction of 235 temporary Shelters in Injil district and planned to construct 235 permanent shelters for the same families.
- Help Germany concluded its winterization intervention in West region and supported 3,755 families.
- ARAA/UNHCR responded to 9,007 families with winterization assistance in the WR provinces (915 households in Herat, 3,022 households in Ghor, 3,022 in Badghis and 1,028 households in Farah province). In addition, the partner provided shelter repair assistance to 482 families in Herat.
- IOM responded to 82 flash floods affected population in Herat and Badghis provinces through NFIs standard package, ESK, and winter clothing.
- UNICEF, in partnership with its Implementing Partners (IPs), addressed the winterization needs of 2,189 families by providing 2,189 Winter Cloth Kits (WCKs) and 2,600 Blankets.

Gaps / Challenges

- During the reporting period, partners reported interferences by GDI including threats, forceful retrieval of the beneficiary lists and the detainment of a beneficiary who had received assistance.
- The region noted a new forum on reporting by the de facto authorities (Shura-e-Uloma for shelter construction, Earthquake committee for other emergency purposes and line departments).
- Partners reported delays in shelter construction delayed due the rain and weather conditions.
- Similar, partners reported continued delays in the processing of MoU by line ministries at national level, with impact on short term emergency projects.