GLOBAL SHELTER CLUSTER
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

AFGHANISTAN SHELTER CLUSTER
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# AFGHANISTAN

# ENVIRONMENTAL COUNTRY PROFILE FOR SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT

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Picture descriptions and credits:

**Cover, upper photo**: Earthquakes in Herat, Amid the rubble of destruction, a young boy sits alone. Elise Blanchard, 2023, IOM.

**Cover, bottom photo**: Chargcharan resident builds a passive solar veranda and uses a separate solar water heater (Ghor Province), 2023 © UNHCR.

**Back cover**: A beneficiary rebuilding his home in KhiderKhil Village, Khogyani District, Nangarhar Province, 2023 © Shelter Cluster.

# Afghanistan Environmental Country Profile for Shelter and Settlements June 2024

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# 1. Suggested Further Actions

Under ideal conditions, a Country Environmental Profile for Shelter and Settlements would be prepared before a disaster. As the **Afghanistan Country Environment Profile for Shelter and Settlements** has been developed during an ongoing humanitarian crisis, several suggested further actions to improve the integration of environment into the humanitarian response were identified. These suggested actions are listed below. Not all suggested actions can be implemented immediately but they provide a basis for discussions by Shelter Cluster partners and other stakeholders on ways to reduce the negative impacts of shelter and settlements efforts.

Section 4.4

It is suggested that the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster:

- Discuss, with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team establishing an Environment and Climate Change Working Group (ECCWG) to lead a process to proactively integrate environment and climate considerations into shelter and settlements relief and recovery operations.
- Consider the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster as co-chair of an ECCWG.
- Update, working through the proposed ECCWG, the list of environmental organizations listed in Section 3.2.

Section 5.3

- Review the **Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster Strategy (2022 - 2023)** Good Shelter Programming Environment component with an objective of developing specific guidance on incorporating environmental considerations into shelter and settlements operations.
- Coordinate with the CCCM Working Group on the development of this guidance and, if appropriate, expand the guidance to consider both shelter and settlements-related actions.
- Coordinate with the Housing, Land and Property Taskforce on matters related to housing, land and tenure.
- Expand discussions of shelter and settlements-related environmental issues into intersectoral working group efforts.

Section 6.5

- Integrate information on likely disaster risks into shelter, non-food items and settlements planning to reduce the likelihood of future disasters.
- Continue engagement with iMMAP, including and expanding on collaboration on snow, rain, flood and other risk mapping.
- Review available information on the expected impacts of changes in Afghanistan's climate and consider how these can be addressed as part of humanitarian assistance.
- Verify and update the text in Section 8.4 to reflect changes to the disaster management system in Afghanistan.
- Consider adding additional information on the role of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation in disaster management and, as needed, a separate description of roles and responsibilities in terms of IDP sites and services (e.g., site planning, shelter, WASH, etc.).

Section 7.4

- Consult with UNEP on whether UN agencies or other humanitarian actors are subject to normal environmental review procedures, in normal times and in times of crisis.

Section 8.2

- Collaborate with iMMAP to conduct map overlay on potential encroachment of informal settlements on protected areas.
- Routinely assess whether (am Cluster partners) have
    - Any activities in or near protected areas,

    - Activities which drawn resources from these areas or
    - Activities near locally define areas of specific environmental value, for instance wetlands or forests.

Section 9.3

- Conduct categorical environmental impact assessments of the more common types of shelter and NFI assistance and develop standard EMMPs, modified by region and shelter types as needed.
- Use NEAT+ at the project level to identify additional EMMP guidance, for instance, related to land use, natural hazards and other factors not considered through the categorical assessments.

Section 10.2

- Seek to incorporate materials from the Tip Sheet for HRP Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming into the HNO and HRP documents.
- Develop a sector specific environmental strategic approach in addition to what is presented in the HRP.

Section 11.2

- Discuss with the Humanitarian Spatial Data Center on integrating the information available from the Center into environmental reviews of relief or transitional shelter and settlements assistance.

Section 12.2

- Discuss with the CCCM Cluster the integration of the Suitable land for allocation 8 criteria into any site selection materials. Criteria 1, 5, 6, and 8 directly relate to shelter assistance and associated potential environmental impacts.
- Collaborate with HLP Taskforce to develop strategic note outlining shelter & settlement and HLP approach in Afghanistan.

Section 13.3

Collaborate with the Logistics Cluster to

- Identify options to reduce the consumption of transport sector hydro-carbon-based fuels to reduce the carbon emissions associated with shelter and NFI-related assistance and operations.
- Identify options to reduce hydro-carbon-based energy use and improve environmental management of storage facilities used by Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster partners.
- Promote the use of top level standards set by IFRC and UNHCR for shelter and NFI procurements and the reduction of packaging to reduce the generation of unnecessary waste.
- Promote a common approach to assessing the environmental and other impacts of in-country procurements by organizations or using cash or vouchers.

Section 14.3

- Collaborate with the CCCM Working Group to develop Afghan-specific site selection and planning environmental assessment and guidance materials.

Section 15.2

- Expand the promotion of fuel-efficient stoves, to reduce indoor and outdoor air pollution.
- Consider shifting to lesser polluting fuels for heating and cooking, e.g., bottled natural gas or electricity, where the increased cost should be compared with the use of other fuels in terms of air pollution and health impacts.
- Develop shelter design modification to improve the heat retention of specific shelter rooms (e.g., One-warm-room approach) to improve heating efficiency.

Section 16.2

- Collaborate with the CCCM Working Group to develop Afghan-specific site decommissioning guidance materials.

Section 17.2

- Review key sectoral documents and develop environmental supplements covering environmental reviews and impact mitigation measures.

- Assess the carbon footprint ($CO^2$ equivalent emissions) of emergency and transitional shelter designs using the Shelter Methodology for the Assessment of Carbon (SMAC) or similar tool and modify designs to reduce this footprint.
- Develop alternatives to the use of fired bricks, while avoiding alternatives which can lead to similar or worse environmental and human impacts.
- Review the use of energy at the household level and develop guidance on minimizing native human health and environmental impacts.

Section 18.2

- Conduct scorecard assessments of key NFIs to identify a need to reduce environmental and other possible negative consequences.
- Assess opportunities to reduce packaging and consequent waste generation from NFIs.

Section 19.2

- Work with other interested parties to establish an intersectoral climate change working group with an initial focus on communication about climate change assessments, impacts and mitigation and adaptation approaches.
- Encourage the integration of climate change adaptation/DRR into partner programs and projects.
- Promote the use of $CO^2$ emissions assessment tools (e.g., SMAC, Sustainable Shelter, etc.) into routine partner operations.
- Support partners in identifying major sources of $CO^2$ emissions and options to reduce these emissions.

Section 20.2

- Review options for debris and waste management to support livelihoods and reduce environmental impacts with the CCCM and WASH Clusters and develop Afghan-specific guidance as needed.

Section 21.2

- Define a Cluster-specific approach to nature-based DRR.
- Encourage the inclusion of nature-based DRR in partner shelter and settlements projects.
- Collect and share information on past DRR projects involving nature-based interventions.
- Provide awareness and training on nature-based DRR, where possible in conjunction with information on climate change adaptation.
- Include DRR activities under the HRP through (1) the inclusion of seismic elements on shelter design such as sill, lintel bands, bracings, columns to reduce impact of earthquakes and (2) the construction of simple drainage channels, barriers including levees, beams, and floodwalls, to mitigate the potential impact of flooding on people and property.

Section 22.4

- (Encourage) A clear concept of durable solutions be developed and communicated with partner organizations.
- (Encourage that) The DSWG ToR be presented to all stakeholders for a unified coordination within the overall humanitarian effort.
- (Promote) A clear understanding of roles be identified between the DSWG and Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster to promote collaborative efforts.

# 2. Introduction

### 2.1. Why an Environmental Country Profile

It has been increasingly recognized that considering the environment, including the climate, is essential for a successful humanitarian response. Assistance which damages the environment limits the ability of disaster survivors to recover and may harm neighboring communities as well. Most natural hazards have a link to the environment, either directly or indirectly. Not considering these links can reduce the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance and reduce

opportunities for humanitarian assistance to contribute to improving environmental conditions, a result which often reduces disaster risks.

A common challenge in humanitarian response is that the urgency of life saving and life-supporting efforts often provides limited time to collect and analyze information of broad topics such as the environment. This **Afghanistan Environmental Country Profile for Shelter and Settlements** has been developed to pull together key information and links to additional resources as a quick and easy reference to the broad scope of the environment which can be relevant in a humanitarian response.

While the **Afghan Profile** does contain analysis and suggested actions (see below), the majority of the materials included are not original to this document. In this sense, the Afghan Profile is not a report about the environment in Afghanistan but an easily accessible reference of shelter and settlements environmental information for use in Afghanistan. The reference format provides summaries covering relevant topics with links to additional information. In practice, only one or a few sections of the **Afghan Profile** may be needed by any individual humanitarian staff or program at any one time for guidance on a specific topic or issue even as the document itself may seem quite voluminous.

### 2.2. Development of the Profile

Development of the **Afghan Profile** began in August 2022 with a series of consultations with the Cluster team in Afghanistan. An online rapid environmental impact assessment was completed in December 2022.

Initial drafting of the **Afghan Profile** proceeded concurrently with work on Environmental Profiles for other counties. Lessons from this broader work were incorporated into the development of this Profile.

A field mission to Afghanistan took place during October 2023 and included site visits and consultations with sector stakeholders. Subsequently, draft Profile content was reviewed by Cluster staff in Kabul and briefings were held for the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Strategic Advisory Group and partners. An updated draft was provided to the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster in June 2024.

### 2.3. Organization of the Profile

The **Afghanistan Country Environment Profile for Shelter and Settlements** is divided into two main sections:

- A **Profile Overview** which generally provides:
    - Short topical summaries of information useful in incorporating environmental issues into the humanitarian response in Afghanistan, and
    - An identification of actions to be considered in integrating the environment into ongoing and future shelter and settlements operations.
- An **Annex**, which provides, where necessary, more information to complement the topical summaries provided in the **Profile Summary**.

**Note**: Where appropriate, *climate* and *environment* may be used separately in the Profile although the use of *environment* always includes *climate*.

### 2.4. Updating of the Profile

The **Afghan Profile** has been developed for an on-going crisis and may need to be update on at least a biannual basis. Updates can occur in combination with revisions to the Humanitarian Need Overview (HNO) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). However, any significant change in the nature of humanitarian operations Afghanistan should consider an updating of the **Afghan Profile**.

# 3. Country Context

## 3.1. Current Humanitarian Crisis

Extracted and condensed from Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan Afghanistan (2024): (See original text for footnotes to sources of information.)

*Herat EQ happened on 07 October 2023*
*Two years have elapsed since the Taliban De-Facto Authorities (DfA) assumed control in 2021, with Afghanistan remaining caught in the aftermath of decades of war, recurrent and now-prolonged drought, and escalating poverty. The effects of political transition, economic contraction, and diminished development assistance have amplified protection risks and humanitarian needs at the household-level, with women and girls bearing the brunt of the impact.*
*…*
*Limited state capacity to manage challenges, including natural disasters and climate change, further complicates the efforts of humanitarian and non-humanitarian actors to meet the diverse needs of the population. Inadequate investment in infrastructure following the political transition and subsequent reductions in international development assistance, present challenges across all sectors, affecting water infrastructure, agricultural support systems, dams, flood protections, public health, education facilities, electrical and natural gas supplies, and roads.*
*…*
*Unexploded ordnance and landmines were the second-leading cause of civilian casualties during the period, demonstrating the continued threat that explosive hazards pose to the physical and mental wellbeing of the civilian population, affecting land use, impeding development and generating psychological fear among communities. Afghanistan has one of the highest levels of explosive hazard contamination in the world, with more than 60 people – mostly children – killed and maimed every month.*
*…*
*In 2023, 65 per cent of families reported directly experiencing an economic shock, a 20 per cent increase compared to 2022, the Whole of Afghanistan Assessment (WoAA) reports. Unemployment rates remain high, particularly among Afghan women, with 58 per cent of women household members lacking employment opportunities.*

**October 2024 Herat Earthquakes**

During October 2024 a series of earthquake occurred near Herat. Damage and destruction of buildings was locally severe. An estimated 1.6 million were affected with 275,000 requiring humanitarian assistance. Further details are available in the **Revised Herat Earthquake Response Plan Afghanistan**.

A **Herat Earthquake Humanitarian Response Key Environmental Considerations Overview** was prepared to support relief operations. The report covered *Shelter, Energy, Environmental Information in Needs Assessments, Debris Management, Winter and Spring Forecasting, WASH, Procurement, Fire Safety, "Cash" based assistance, Non-Food Items* and *Nature-Based Recovery Options-Landslide and Flood Risk*. (The Cross-cutting Issues section of the **Earthquake Response Plan** did not include content on the environment.) The information in the **Environmental Considerations Overview** report can adapted for the response to earthquakes and other disasters in the future.

*Moreover, women-headed households are more reliant on unstable sources of income – such as daily labour, loans, and donations – to make ends meet. Likewise, the WoAA revealed that women-headed households and recent returners are showing a worsening of needs compared to 2022 and are more likely to resort to emergency coping strategies. In 2023, 31 per cent of women-headed households and 34 per cent of recent returnees utilised emergency coping strategies to meet their basic needs, compared to the national household average of 22 per cent.*
*…*
*Despite reduced conflict, Afghanistan remains a protection crisis, intensified by climate change-induced water scarcity. Women and girls continue to face*

*heightened protection needs as a result of targeted policies which seek to restrict their movement and limit their involvement in life outside the home.*

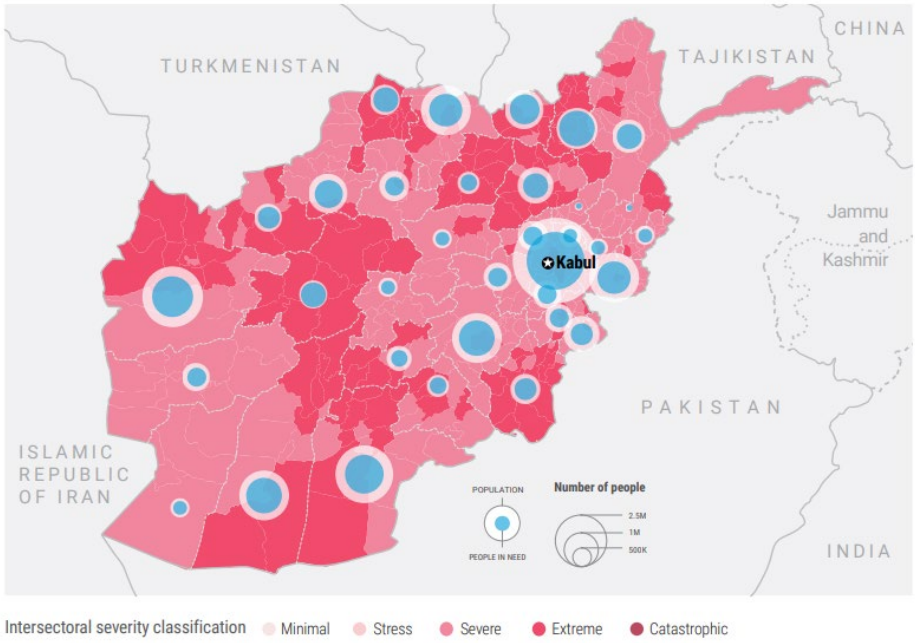
*…*

*Afghanistan's population faces increased strain on limited resources, livelihoods, and basic services. Additional population influxes, such as the one triggered by the forced and spontaneous return of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan, will only further compound an already fragile situation, while the unpredictability of movements across the Iranian border adds to uncertainties. In 2024, more than 978,000 Afghans are projected to return from Iran, with the majority returning to Herat, Kabul, Kunduz, and Mazar-e-Sharif ISee* ***People on the move****, below).*

*…*

*Afghanistan is on the frontlines of climate change, ranking among the countries most at risk of crises and disasters due to their increasing frequency, intensity and severity, exposing millions of people to critical losses of livelihoods and assets. … Rising temperatures are rapidly altering precipitation patterns across Afghanistan, diminishing people's access to water. … Three years of consecutive La Niña conditions, which brought below-average, irregular rainfall, resulted in drought conditions and floods across the country, threatening wellbeing of around 31 million people dependent on agriculture-based livelihoods to make ends meet. Desertification has affected more than 75 per cent of the total land area in the country's northern, western and southern regions, reducing vegetation cover for pasture, accelerating land degradation and affecting crop farming in the last four decades. At the same time, flooding in 2023 affected nearly 27,600 people across 26 provinces, destroying agricultural land, crops, and infrastructure.*

**Intersectoral severity of needs and distribution of people in need**
*at admin 1 level*




*While* precipitation levels are expected to improve with the onset of El Niño, rain patterns could increase the likelihood of flooding of degraded land and landslides, or create fertile ground for crop pests. Future rain and snowfall trends will have a major impact on traditional livelihoods and settlement patterns. Already, water access is a critical concern, with 67 per cent of households reporting difficulties in accessing water, up from 48 per cent in 2021. … Moreover, multiple districts are now in catastrophic need of water and sanitation, where there is little prospect of near-term improvement. While El Niño may bring relief, it also poses sudden-onset disaster risks, requiring substantial infrastructure adaptations such as disaster risk prevention infrastructure (see **Climate and Natural Disaster Risks**, below).

Afghanistan's susceptibility to earthquakes adds to the complexity, with recent seismic

events underscoring the continuous risk. …[1]

Communities in Afghanistan have highlighted food as a top need which requires addressing, in addition to healthcare services, education, and WASH, according to the Afghanistan Community Voices and Accountability Platform. Nearly half of households stressed the importance of livelihoods support, followed by sufficient healthcare and access to safe drinking water and sanitation services. Together, these findings underscore the multi-dimensional and interwoven humanitarian and development challenges now confronting the population.

**Climate and Natural Disaster Risks**
From **Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan Afghanistan**, 2024)
(See original text for data sources.)

*Overall, it is expected that severe and unpredictable weather events and natural disasters will continue in 2024 and beyond due to the impact of climate change, with severe knock-on effects on infrastructure and agriculture, heightening the risks of displacement to urban areas. Afghanistan, ranked globally as the sixth most vulnerable and least prepared country to adapt to climate change, faces concerning climate signals, notably a significant 1.8° Celsius increase in mean annual temperature from 1951 to 2010—double the global average. In 2023, natural disasters affected people in 26 out of 34 provinces. The nation's susceptibility to earthquakes, floods, droughts, landslides, and avalanches perpetuates an annual impact on an average of 200,000 individuals.*

*With anticipated El Niño conditions in late 2023 and early 2024, Afghanistan grapples with both promise and risk. The potential for above-normal rainfall presents an opportunity for drought recovery but simultaneously raises the specter of flooding and crop pests. At the same time, multiple districts in the Northern, Northeastern and Southern regions are exhibiting considerable WASH needs due to high drought stress, limited access to safe drinking water, low sanitation coverage, reported acute malnutrition, acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreaks, and service gaps. Unfortunately, the prospects for near-term improvement in these areas remain bleak without sustained and high-value investments in WASH infrastructure, including sanitation systems and water resource management.*

*Compounding these challenges is the limited funding available to humanitarian actors, compelling them to undertake more rigorous prioritization, and delineate better between humanitarian and basic human needs activities. To that end, the 2024 Afghanistan needs analysis incorporated clear boundary setting by narrowing down the scope to core humanitarian activities and stricter targeting based on severity and vulnerability.*

### 3.2. Environment Overview

Extracted from **Afghanistan National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management** and **National Adaptation Programme of Action for Climate Change (NAPA) - Final Joint Report** (page 23)

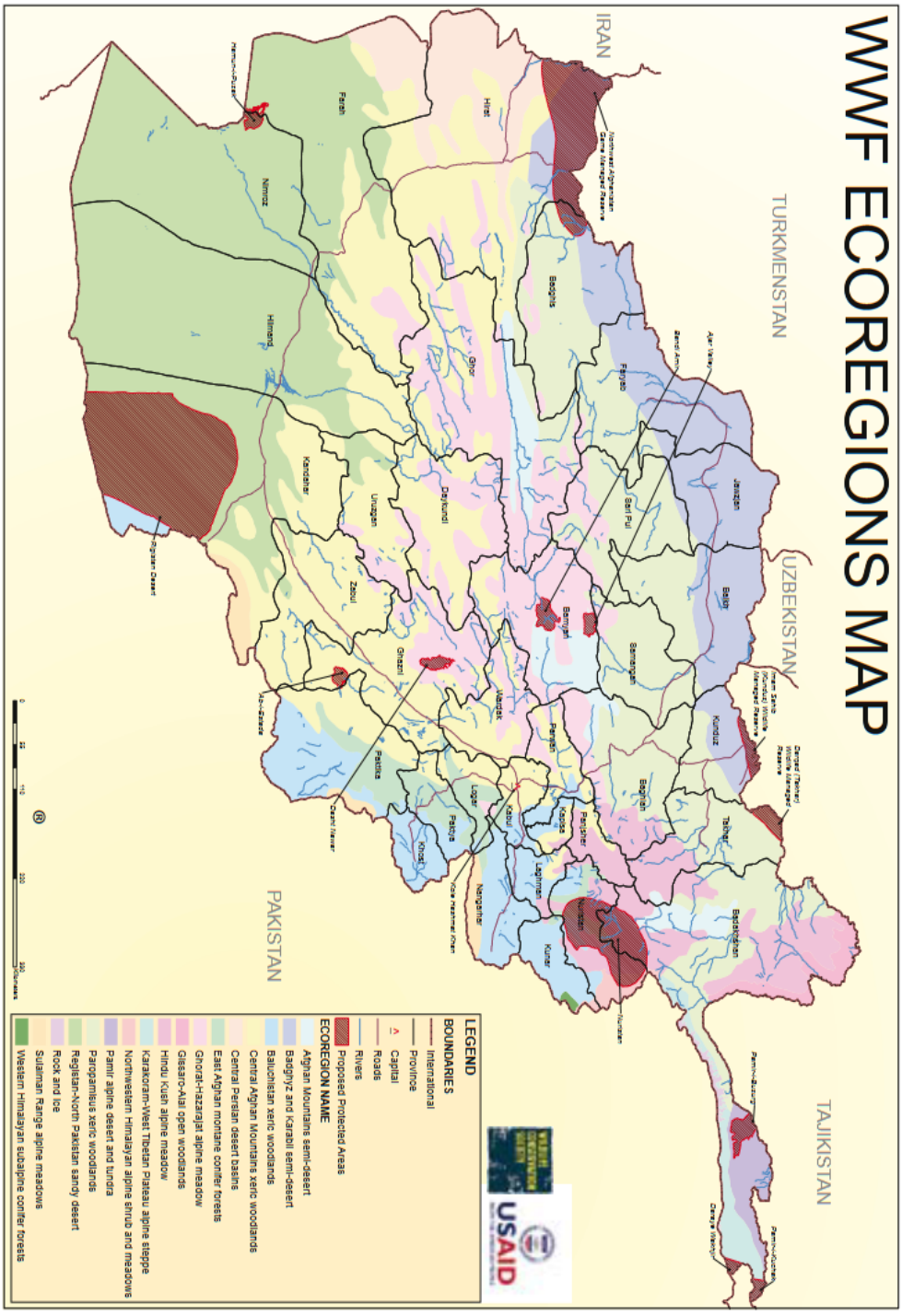
*Afghanistan is essentially an agrarian country, with up to 80 percent of the population involved in farming or herding, or both. Characterized by a semi-arid and arid climate, the balance between precipitation and primary production is precarious throughout much of the country. With one of the highest population growth rates in Asia, together with returning refugees,*

[1] Between January and December 2023, Afghanistan has experienced 385 earthquake events, of which 109 were rated above 4.5 magnitude - according to IMMAP Map of Earthquake Events in Afghanistan (January to December 2023).

*extreme levels of poverty, ongoing conflict and low human and institutional resource capacities, Afghanistan represents one of the largest development challenges in the world today. The multiple pressures on the environment are resulting in unsustainable natural resource use and severe degradation of the natural resource base. Forest and woodlands, throughout Afghanistan are being cut down for construction, fuel wood and sale to neighboring countries, without consideration for their ecological and environmental values. Rangelands are being converted to rain-fed wheat production, exposing vast areas to wind and water erosion. Thus processes of deforestation combined with overgrazing, conversion and drought are increasing soil erosion, watershed degradation, reducing ecosystem services and biodiversity loss, threatening livelihood sources and leading to increased impoverishment of the Afghan people. While there is awareness within the government of some of the consequences of biodiversity loss and desertification, particularly in the face of ongoing climate change, the pressure for survival at the local level and economic growth at the national level in an insecure country has resulted in little substantive action being take into address the issue. In this context, it is*

*urgently required that action be taken to build systemic, institutional and individual capacities to address these issues.*

Figure 2. Ecoregions of Afghanistan



**Summary of Environmental Challenges**

*Afghanistan grapples with a host of environmental challenges that significantly impact its people and natural balance.*

1. *Uncontrolled Urbanization and Solid Waste Disposal: Rapid urban growth, often without proper planning, results in uncontrolled urbanization. Improper waste disposal further strains the environment.*
2. *Air and Water Pollution: Afghanistan faces worsening air and water pollution, affecting both human health and ecosystems.*
3. *Depletion of Groundwater: The over-extraction of groundwater for various purposes poses a serious threat to water availability and sustainability.*
4. *Illegal Wildlife Hunting and Timber Trade: The illegal hunting of wildlife and timber trade contribute to the decline of precious species and forest ecosystems.*
5. *Expanding Mining Footprint: Informal artisanal quarrying and mining activities lead to an expanding mining footprint, impacting landscapes and habitats.*
6. *Limited Renewable Energy Alternatives: Afghanistan's energy sources remain limited, hindering progress toward cleaner and more sustainable alternatives.*
7. *Climate Change Impacts: The country's vulnerability to climate change is pronounced. More frequent and severe floods, droughts, and landslides, coupled with insecurity and poor infrastructure, exacerbate the situation.*
8. *Efforts to address these challenges require collaboration among national partners, coordinated by the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA).*

### *3.3.* Shelter, Housing and Settlements Overview

Extracted from **Afghanistan Housing Profile**:[2]

*Afghanistan is still a predominately rural society with an estimated 76% of the population living in rural areas. This situation is however rapidly changing. Afghan cities are growing at an estimated rate of around 4% per year, one of the highest in the world; and the urban population is expected to continue to grow at an average of 3.14% up to 2050. In 1950,only one out of every twenty Afghans lived in cities. In 2015, 8.5 million or one out of every four (27%) Afghans lived in cities; and by 2060 one in two— 50% of the population—will live in cities, as the projections in Figure 5 show. In absolute numbers this equates to at least 320,000 additional urban dwellers, or 43,800 households,31 every year32 that will require housing.*

## 4. Key Actors

### 4.1. Afghanistan Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster

A current list of Afghanistan Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster partners can be found in Annex 24.1, with additional details in Section 7.1 below.

### 4.2. Environmental Sector

The following list was collected from searches on the World Wide Web and has not been verified directly with each organization.

| Organization | Description<br>(Italics indicate copied from organization web site.) |
|---|---|
| Ecology and Conservation | ECOA was founded in 2010 as a fully Afghan owned and Afghan managed local non-profit NGO with an overall goal of achieving poverty alleviation and environmental conservation and rehabilitation |

[2] Numbers in subscript are footnotes in the original.

| | |
|---|---|
| Organization of Afghanistan (ECOA) | through promoting and facilitating sustainable community based development and natural resources management. |
| Green Home | Influential Women and Youth Green Home (IWYGHO) is a non-profit organization based on Kabul that was established on 24th November of 2017. We work in three departments of Social and Culture, Economic and Environment departments. IWYGHO with believes in freedom, democracy and human rights works toward achieving sustainable development goals, peaceful society free of violence, discrimination and corruption. |
| Nature Educational, Research & Development Organization (NERDO) | NERDO (Nature Education, Research and Development Organization) is a non-profitable, non-political and independent organization that is established in the year 2012 in order to provide development & social services in various aspects such as Agricultural, Legal, Educational, Health, Environmental and other social services, and those services are regardless of ethnicity, nationality, language, religion, race, skin color, and region. |
| Bureau for Rights-Based Development (BRD) | Established in 2002 the Bureau for Rights-Based Development (BRD) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation registered in Afghanistan and Sweden. The rights-based approach to poverty eradication and development lies at the very heart of BRD's work. |
| Partners in Revitalization and Rebuilding | Partners in Revitalization and Building (PRB) is a national, independent NGO founded in the year 1990. PRB is actively engaged in rehabilitation/ reconstruction, relief, and development in the north and central regions of Afghanistan. |
| Future Generations Empowerment Organisation (FGEO) | Future Generations Empowerment Organisation (FGEO) is established by a group of alumni of Future Generations Graduate School and the US Institute of Peace who completed their Master's Degree programmes in Applied Community Change focus on Conservation and Peacebuilding. The founders and activists of this organisation are fully committed to utilise their academic knowledge and expertise in the field of community development, peacebuilding and conserving natural sources for the empowerment of the community, particularly mobilisation self-reliance of youths and adolescents who are indeed the future builders of the country. |
| Afghanistan Environmental Experts Society/Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) | Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) is a coalition of about 300 civil society organisations working in 08 South Asian countries to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change. It promotes equity and social justice between peoples, sustainable development of all communities and protection of the global environment. |

### 4.3. Government

The primary government actors dealing with shelter and NFIs are the

- Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, primarily for responses to natural hazard events (see Section 8.4, below), and
- Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, primarily dealing with the settling of IDPs and returnees.

Provincial governors also play a significant role in dealing with IDPs and the disaster affected.

The lead actor on environmental issues is the National Environmental Protection Agency. See Section 9, below for more information.

### 4.4. Suggested Further Actions

It is suggested that the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster:

- Discussion at the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team the establishment of an Environment and Climate Change Working Group (ECCWG) to lead a process to proactively integrate environment and climate considerations into shelter and settlements relief and recovery operations. Given the broad impacts of climate change and range of environmental issues, the ECCWG is best be a cross-cluster effort.
- Given the broad environmental scope of shelter and settlements assistance, consider the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster as co-chair of the ECCWG.
- Update, working through the proposed ECCWG, the list of environmental organizations listed in Section 3.2.

# 5. Summary of Shelter/NFI Efforts

## 5.1. Afghan Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster

The Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster was activated in 2008. UNHCR is the lead agency and IOM is the Co-chair agency. In practice both agencies work as a team in the coordination of shelter and NFI efforts. Cluster operational presence and types of interventions are detailed in the following map. Names for organization abbreviations can be found in Annex 24.1.

The Cluster Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) is composed of 9 international and national shelter partners serving on an annual basis. SAG membership is updated annually. In 2024 the SAG members were ADEO, Afghanaid, CAHPO, IOM, Mission East, ORD, NRC, UN-HABITAT and UNHCR.

There is currently no environment or climate-focused working group in the Cluster. Intersectoral working groups relevant to environmental aspects of shelter and settlement operations are listed in the box at right. Additional details on shelter and NFI operations are provided in Sections 18 and 19, below.

The **Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster Strategy (2022 - 2023)** identifies three objectives for the Cluster:

- Ensure timely, adequate access to shelter and non-food items for affected people
- Ensure that the living conditions of vulnerable people are improved.
- Ensure adequate response capacity through preparedness measures and prepositioning of emergency shelters and Non-Food Items

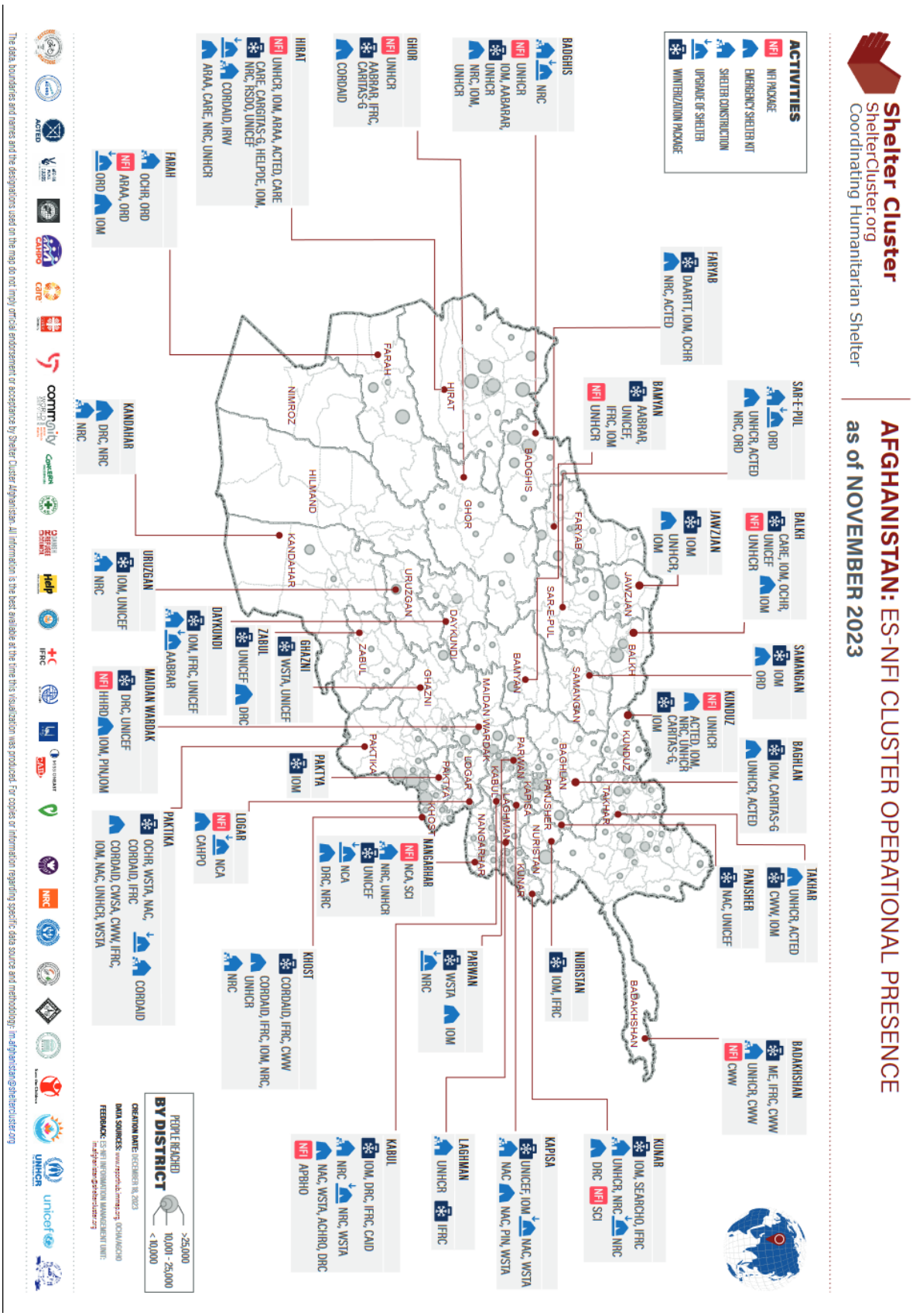
As well, five priorities are identified in the **Strategy**:

- 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

**Intersectoral Working Groups**

- Cash and Voucher Working Group
- Accountability to Affected Populations Working Group
- Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group
- Disability Inclusion Working Group
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group
- COVID-19 Risk Communications and Community Engagement Sub-Working Group
- Logistics Working Group
- Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Taskforce

transitional shelter construction, integrated programming with other clusters, linkages with livelihood actors and advocacy, strengthen coordination with authorities



The environment is considered under Good Shelter Programming: *Environmental sensitive programming will be considered in all ES/NFI cluster responses. This will include the use of environmentally friendly local materials, identifying appropriate support for heating and other innovations to mitigate any adverse environmental impacts*

### 5.2. Camp Coordination and Management Working Group

A Camp Coordination and Management Working Group (CCCM) has been established in Afghanistan. The CCCM Working Group is chaired by UNHCR and NRC.

As detailed by the CCCM Working Group (see Annex 24.2):

The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Working Group in Afghanistan was established in October 2021 to address the coordination, protection, and advocacy needs of partners regarding existing informal settlements, also known as Informal settlements (ISET). This Inter-Agency Standing Committee coordination mechanism does not create or promote camps or sites, but instead focuses on coordinating, protecting, and advocating for the needs of partners in relation to the existing informal settlements.

The primary objective of the CCCM Working Group is to ensure fair and dignified access to assistance, information, and protection for displaced people in camp-like settings. They work in collaboration with government structures and employ participatory processes to improve the quality of life, safety, and dignity for those affected by displacement.

To achieve these goals, the CCCM Working Group supports the application of various global and national commitments, such as the Camp Management Toolkit, Minimum Standards for Camp Management, Sphere Standards, IASC Gender Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action, Camp Managers Guide to Cash-Based Interventions, CCCM Cluster Paper on Area-Based Approaches, Management and Coordination of Informal Settings Through Mobile/Area-Based Approach Working Paper, Urban Displacement Out of Camps Desk Review, IASC Data Responsibility in Humanitarian Action, IASC Guidelines on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, and Camp Closure Guidelines.

More details on the CCCM Working Group can be found in Annex 24.2.

### 5.3. Suggested Further Actions

It is suggested that the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster:

- Review the **Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster Strategy (2022 - 2023)** Good Shelter Programming Environment component with an objective of developing specific guidance on incorporating environmental considerations into shelter and settlements operations.
- Coordinate with the CCCM Working Group on the development of this guidance and, if appropriate, expand the guidance to consider both shelter and settlements-related actions.
- Coordinate with the Housing, Land and Property Taskforce on matters related to housing, land and tenure.
- Expand discussions of shelter and settlements-related environmental issues into intersectoral working group efforts.

# 6. Disaster Risk Management

## 6.1. Natural Hazards

### 6.1.1. Disaster Risk Profile – Afghanistan

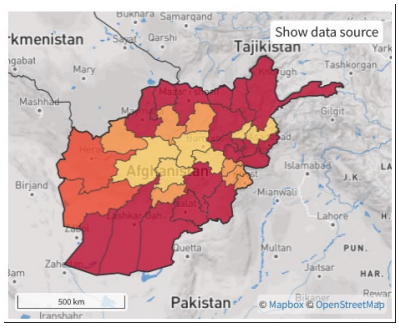
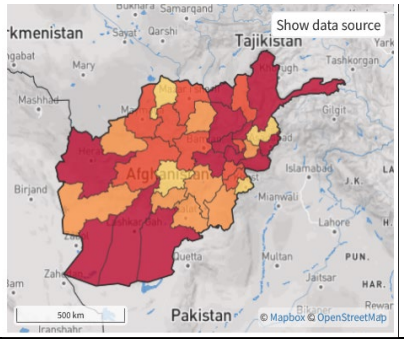
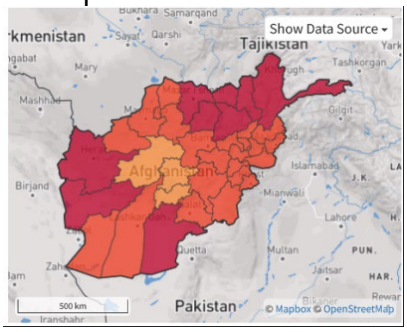
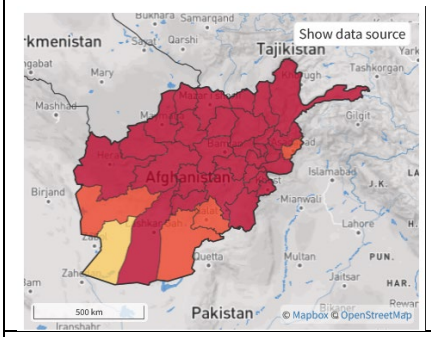
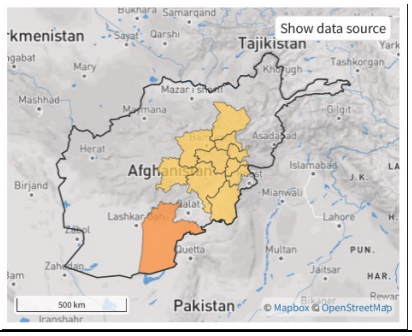
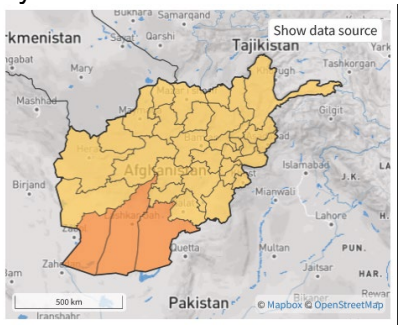
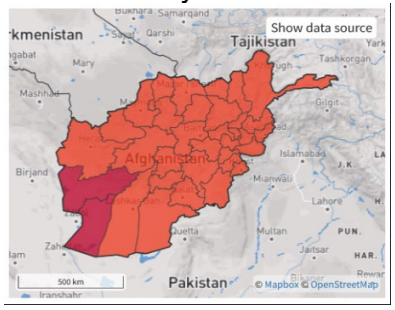
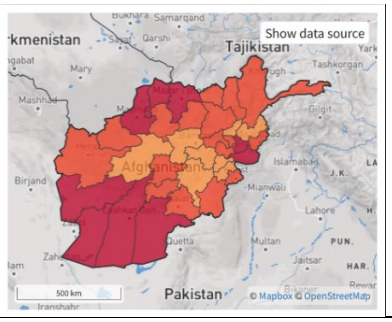
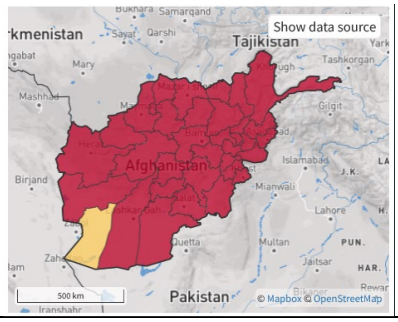
Summarized from **Disaster Risk Profile – Afghanistan**

- *Natural hazards, such as flooding, earthquakes, avalanches, landslides and droughts, are exacerbated by vulnerability and poverty …*
- *Flooding is the most frequent natural hazard historically, causing average annual damages of %54 million …*
- *Earthquakes cause the most fatalities historically; since 1950, nearly 12,000 people have been killed due to earthquakes.*
- *Average yearly damage from earthquakes are estimated at $80 million,*
- *3 million people are exposed to very high or high landslide hazard.*
- *2 million people are exposed to avalanches.*
- *An estimated 10,000 km of roads (15% of all roads) are exposed to avalanches, including key transport routes …*

See the **Disaster Risk Profile** for more details on individual hazards.

The following hazard maps are from the ThinkHazard pages for Afghanistan.
The Afghanistan pages should be consulted for additional information on the nature and extent of the hazards as well as actions which can be taken to manage the risks involved.

Hazard Level Color Code for Maps

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| River Flood  | Urban Flood  | Earthquake  |
| Landslide  | Volcano  | Cyclone  |
| Water Scarcity  | Extreme Heat  | Wildfire  |

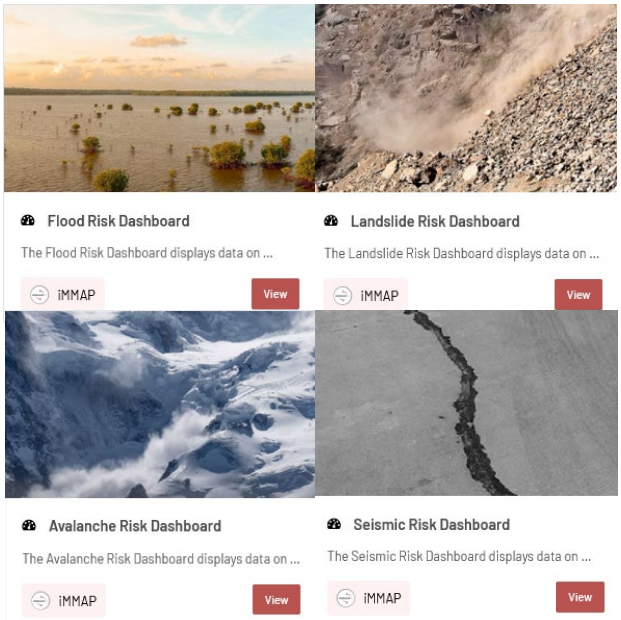
In addition to these hazards, Afghanistan is also subject to sand and dust storms (SDS). These events tend to be seasonal, during the Spring and Summer. More information on SDS is available from **Global Assessment of Sand and Dust Storms** and the **Sand and Dust Storm Compendium**.

Afghanistan and neighboring areas of Central Asia are subject to desert and other locust infestation. While these infestations do not directly affect housing, the can lead to significant damage to food and cash crops, and put families under significant stress. A consequence is that affected families may move to areas with better food security prospects (e.g., cities) or sell assets including household items or land, to cover basic needs. As with drought and food insecurity, the indirect impacts of locust infestations on livelihoods and coping strategies should be monitored for changes in sheltering options and household assets.

### 6.1.2. Humanitarian Spatial Data Center

The **Humanitarian Spatial Data Center**[3], managed by iMMAP[4], provides a range of data and information on hazards and risk for Afghanistan. Products include

- Earthquake, flood, landslide and avalanche risk maps, and
- Flood forecasts (basin and district level) and warnings, together with expected discharge levels for major basins in Afghanistan and into neighboring countries.




The **Data Center** also provides a range of static and interactive maps for Afghanistan, including coverage of infrastructure, post-earthquake event data, and some environmental topics (e.g., snow levels and river basins).

The hazard location and risk information from the **Data Center** is expected to be more accurate below the provincial level when compared to the **Disaster Risk Profile – Afghanistan** data (see 8.1.1). However, the **Disaster Risk Profile** covers some hazards not covered by the **Data Center** (e.g., extreme heat) which are expected to be of increased concern from a climate change perspective.

**Additional Sources of Information on Hazards and Disaster Management in Afghanistan**

- Managing Natural Disasters in Afghanistan Risks, Vulnerabilities and General Guidelines
- Disaster Risk Reduction in Afghanistan Status Report 2020
- Disaster Risk Profile: Afghanistan

### 6.2. Climate Change

Extracted from Climate Risk Country Profile: Afghanistan:

- *Afghanistan faces rates of warming higher than the global average with a potential rise of 1.4°C–5.4°C by the 2080s and the 2090s, compared with the baseline of 1986–2005. The range in possible temperature rises highlights the significant differences between 21st century emissions pathways.*

[3] Requires an approval at registration and password to access.
[4] See https://immap.org/ for more on iMMAP.

- *Rises in the annual maximum and minimum temperature are projected to be greater than the rise in average temperature, likely amplifying the pressure on human health, livelihoods, and ecosystems.*
- *Changes to Afghanistan's rainfall regime, and hence water resources, are highly uncertain, but an increase in the incidence of drought conditions is very likely, and the shifts in the runoff regime have already been documented. Over the long-term, loss of glaciers could fundamentally disrupt regional water and hydropower supplies.*
- *Arid land-cover is likely to expand either side of the Hindu Kush, leading to shifts in ecosystems and potentially loss of biodiversity.*
- *Events over the early 21st century show the extreme vulnerability of Afghanistan's communities to hazards such as drought and flash flooding. This vulnerability is amplified by poverty, undernourishment, food insecurity, and inequality.*
- *Temperature increases are likely to place strain on urban dwellers, outdoor laborers, and the country's energy network, with increased risk of heat-related sickness and fatalities under all emissions pathways.*
- *Comprehensive understanding of current and future climate risks across multiple sectors is severely constrained by a lack of data and research. This is an obstacle to adaptation and disaster risk reduction for Afghanistan.*

Extensive additional detail on climate change in Afghanistan can be found in the Climate Change Country Profile.

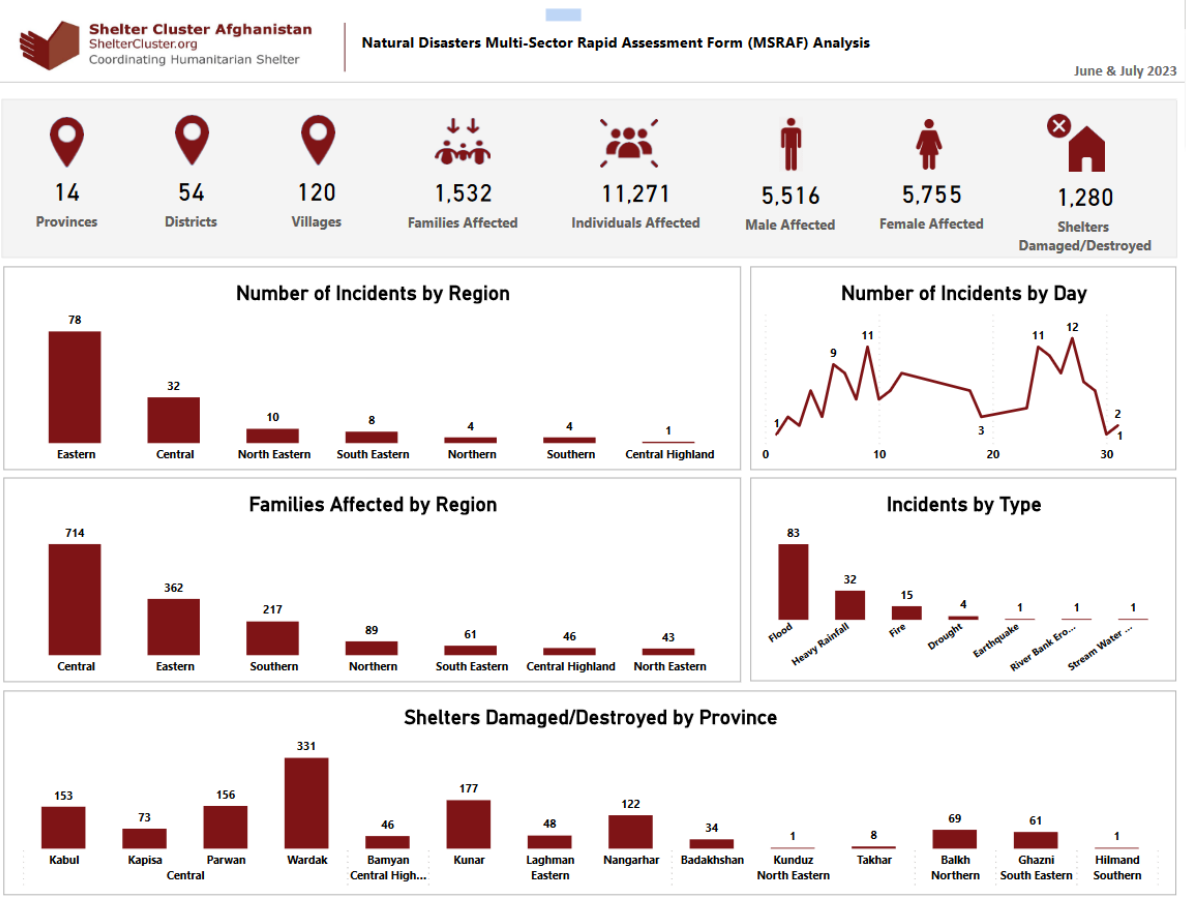
### 6.3. Disaster History

Reported disasters in Afghanistan from 1954 to 2023 as recorded in the EM-DAT disaster data base are summarized in the table at right. Annex 24.3 provides information on location, type of event, number affected, fatalities, cost of damage, etc., for each disaster included in the Em-Dat database. It is likely that the actual number of disasters during this period is greater than indicated in the EM-Dat data base.

| Em-Dat Reported Disasters – Afghanistan | |
|---|---|
| **Disaster** | **Number** |
| Flood - River and Not Designated | 44 |
| Flood - Flash | 38 |
| Earthquake | 36 |
| Epidemic | 20 |
| Avalanche | 20 |
| Road Accident | 20 |
| Air Accident | 19 |
| Miscellaneous, including explosions and building collapse | 9 |
| Storm, including Convective storm, Winter storm/Blizzard (5) | 9 |
| Drought | 8 |
| Extreme Cold | 8 |
| Industrial Accident | 7 |
| Landslide | 6 |
| Mudflows | 2 |
| Locust Infestation | 1 |
| Forest Fire | 1 |

Disasters associated the flooding and earthquakes are the most frequent in Afghanistan based on the available data. Both types of disaster are likely to create significant shelter and NFI requirements but are also susceptible to disaster risk reduction.

The graphic below provides additional information on disaster occurrences and impacts from a shelter perspective for June and July 2023. This type of analysis is useful in planning disaster risk reduction efforts to reduce losses from, for instance, flooding and heavy rainfall, the most frequently reported events.




### 6.4. Disaster Management System in Afghanistan

The following text on the disaster management system in Afghanistan is extracted from the **Interim Report Assessment of Disasters Response Management and SAR Procedures and Systems in Afghanistan** developed by UNDP Tajikistan. While the names of governmental institutions may have changed, the current disaster management system for Afghanistan is similar to the structure described below. Also see the documents listed in Section 7.1, above.

Disaster risk management in Afghanistan is governed by the **Law on Disaster Response, Management and Preparedness** of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The law covers disasters due to natural and human-generated causes and post disaster recovery as well as prevention, understood to be risk reduction.

As per the law, a

- National Disaster Management Commission (NDMC) exists at the national level and is charged with managing all disasters. The NDMC is chaired by the President[5], and includes all major ministry and administrative units of the Government. It is responsible for disaster risk management (DRM) policy, relief and recovery plans, risk reduction, undertaking immediate measures to save lives and declare the existence of emergency situations.
- Provincial Disaster Management and Response Commissions are established in each province. Their membership parallels that of the NDMC.
- District Disaster Management Committees are established in each District, and membership parallels that of the Provincial Commissions.

[5] Modifications to the translated **Law** text indicate that administrative changes in the Government indicate that the President of Afghanistan is the head of the NDRC.

Responsibilities of the Provincial and District Commissions are expected to be similar to those of the NDRC at the respective administrative level. However, it appears that the main focus of the Provincial and District Commissions is on disaster preparedness and response.

The **Law on Disaster Response** provides for an Office of Disaster Preparedness to coordinate "all disaster related activities in Afghanistan". This office has transformed into the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), currently headed by a State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs and serving as both the overall coordinator of disaster risk management in Afghanistan and as the Secretariat to the NDRC.

**Disaster Risk Management Structure**

National Disaster Management Commission
|
ANDMA
|
Lead Ministries, Afghan Red Crescent, NGOs/IOs
|
Provincial Authorities
|
District Authorities
|
Local Level (Community Based Organizations, etc.)

The 2010 **National Disaster Management Plan** (NDMP, **Attachment 5.2**) provides additional information on ANDMA and disaster risk management in Afghanistan.[6] The NDMP expands the scope of engagement to the level of localities (see box), significant in relation to NGO/IO engagement on disaster risk management including local SAR teams (see **Section 2.5**, below).

Per the **NDMP**, ANDMA is organized into three sections under a Director and Deputy Director[7], covering:

- Policy and Coordination, with units for a National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC), International Relations, Protection, Survey, Publications and Internal Relations.
- Administration and Finance, with units for Procurement, Accounts and Human Resources, and,
- Demining, with units covering Risk Analysis and Operations.

The **NDMP** indicates that the NEOC has responsibility for:

- Emergency operations
- Warning
- Resource mobilization
- Coordinating external support
- Developing policy and plans
- Issuing instruction to responding organizations on damage assessments and reporting.

### 6.5. Suggested Further Action

It is suggested that the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster:

- Integrate information on likely disaster risks into shelter, Non-Food Items and settlements planning to reduce the likelihood of future disasters.
- Continue engagement with iMMAP, including and expanding on collaboration on snow, rain, flood and other risk mapping.
- Review available information on the expected impacts of changes in Afghanistan's climate and consider how these can be addressed as part of humanitarian assistance.

[6] The version attached was drafted by a consultant and is being used for information purposes as an official version could not be located.
[7] It is likely these titles have changed with the change in level of the head of ANDMA, as indicated above.

- Verify and update the text in Section 8.4 to reflect changes to the disaster management system in Afghanistan.
- Consider adding additional information on the role of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation in disaster management and, as needed, a separate description of roles and responsibilities in terms of IDP sites and services (e.g., site planning, shelter, WASH, etc.).

# 7. Environmental Regulatory Requirements and Institutions

## 7.1. Lead Government Party

National Environmental Protection Agency, with a head office in Kabul and regional offices.

## 7.2. Environmental Law

Environmental review procedures are set in the **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Environment Law**. The law covers environmental review, pollution control and waste management, water resource conservation, biodiversity, trade in species, education and research, compliance and enforcement and the application of environmental review procedures to mineral exploration and exploitation.

## 7.3. Environmental Review Submission and Approval

**Afghanistan EIA Profile**, developed by the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment, provides a step-by-step process for the development, submission and approval of an environmental review. The **Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations**, approved in 2008, provides additional details on the assessment process and identifies the types of projects which require environmental reviews. Additional background information is available in **A Guide to Afghanistan's 2007 Environment Law.**

The **Environment Law** text does not indicate that:

- Environmental reviews are **not** required during disasters or other special situations, or
- UN agencies or other parties are exempt from the environmental review process as a matter of standard procedures.

## 7.4. Suggested Further Action

It is suggested the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster consult with UNEP on whether UN agencies or other humanitarian actors are subject to normal environmental review procedures, in normal times and in times of crisis.

# 8. Ecologically Protected and Sensitive Areas

## 8.1. Parks, Reserves, Sanctuaries and Other Protected Areas

Copied from Parks.IT

National Parks
Ab-i-Estada
Ajar Valley
Band-e Amir
Nuristan
National Reserves
Zadran
Wildlife Reserves
Ajar Valley
Pamir-i-Buzurg
Waterfowl Sanctuaries
Ab-i-Estada
Dashte-Nawar
Hamun-i-Puzak
Kole Hashmat Khan
Other Protected Areas
Bamiyan National Heritage
Darqad (Takhar) Wildlife Managed Reserve
Imam Sahib (Kunduz) Wildlife Managed Reserve
Khulm Landmark
Northwest Afghanistan Game Managed Reserve
Registan Desert Wildlife Managed Reserve

Protected areas from Protected Planet. Clicking on the green areas found on the base map at this site https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/thematic-areas/wdpa?tab=WDPA provides additional information on each site.


### 8.2. Suggested Further Action

It is suggested that the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster

- Collaborate with iMMAP to conduct map overlay on potential encroachment of informal settlements on protected areas.
- Emergency Shelter and NFIs Cluster partners routinely assess whether they have
    - Any activities in or near protected areas,
    - Activities which drawn resources from these areas or
    - Activities near locally define areas of specific environmental value, for instance wetlands or forests.

Assessment should specifically consider whether local demands for natural resources will exceed sustainable demand and whether excessive demand can be mitigated through changes in shelter design or specific remedial actions (e.g., tree planting, repairing borrow pits, etc.).[8]

## 9. Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment

### 9.1. Rapid Assessment Process and Report

The Afghan Shelter Cluster conducted a rapid, online, environmental impact assessment for Afghanistan in late 2022. A report on the assessment can be found in Annex 24.4. The key results of the assessment are summarized below. The assessment and additional information

[8] Remedial actions should be defined in a project or site-specific environment management plan.

on shelter activities in Afghanistan are used to develop an environmental management and monitoring plan (see Section 9, below).

The following table provides a ranking of issues identified in the assessment for which at least half of the 22 respondents ranked as important. These results are for Afghanistan as a whole, and the ranking may be different in different areas of the country.

Significantly, at the time of the assessment, conflict was ranked as relatively low in importance while floods received the highest ranking. In that Afghanistan is considered a conflict-related humanitarian response, the relative importance of a natural hazard is important from an environmental impact management perspective.

| **Afghanistan Online REA Issues Ranking** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Topic** | **Criteria** | **Rank** |
| Natural Hazard | Floods | 20 |
| Water | Lesser part of needs being met | 18 |
| Food | Lesser part of needs being met | 18 |
| Shelter | Lesser part of needs being met | 19 |
| Health Care | Lesser part of needs being met | 18 |
| Livelihoods | Lesser part of needs being met | 18 |
| Ability of the affected population to safely manage waste | Poor, waste is poorly managed and causes negative environmental impacts. | 17 |
| Natural Hazard | Drought | 17 |
| Personal Safety | Lesser part of needs being met | 16 |
| Energy | Lesser part of needs being met | 16 |
| Domestic Resources | Lesser part of needs being met | 15 |
| Transport | Lesser part of needs being met | 15 |
| Concentration of affected populations | Moderate, that is households are more than 2 meters but less than 10 meters from each other. | 14 |
| External assistance expectations | High the affected population expect most of their needs to be met from external assistance. | 13 |
| Natural Hazard | Earthquakes | 13 |
| Distance the affected populations have moved | They are not close but not far, that is to say more than 6 hours to a day travel by car from their point of origin. | 13 |
| Length of disaster | Months to years | 12 |
| Self-sufficiency of the affected population | Low, heavily reliant on the natural environment, humanitarian assistance and other sources. | 12 |
| Current livelihood options available | There are few to no options. Households have limited or no means to meet needs and are heavily reliant on assistance and accessing natural resources. | 12 |
| Availability of natural resources | Poor, damage is occurring to the natural environment. | 12 |
| Conflict | Internal Conflict | 11 |

The assessment also asked two questions directly linked gender:

- Are activities of men, women, girls or boys linked to the environment potentially subjecting them to physical harm, and
- Who might be affected?

Of 20 respondents, 14 indicated that harm could occur “In some cases” while 6 indicated that harm could occur “In most cases”.

In terms of who could be most at risk of harm, the twenty respondents indicated the following (multiple response were permitted:

Women: 18 respondents
Girls: 17 respondents
Boys: 14 respondents
Men: 9 Respondents

### 9.2. Environmental Management and Monitoring Plans

Environmental management and monitoring plans (EMMP) are normal outcomes of environmental assessments to ensure that impact mitigation measures are clear and implemented. While a normal development program document, EMMPs are less common in the humanitarian context given the frequent absence of environmental reviews.

At the same time, as a large part of humanitarian assistance involves similar activities (e.g., WASH, emergency shelter, standard NFI packages, cash assistance, etc.) standard EMMPs can be developed for the most common humanitarian assistance efforts. Such common-assistance EMMPs can be used by multiple Cluster partner, reducing the work needed to develop EMMPs and improving the integration of environmental considerations at the operational level. Further information on EMMPs can be found in Annex 24.5.

### 9.3. Suggested Further Action

It is suggested that Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster partners:

- Conduct categorical environmental impact assessments of the more common types of shelter and NFI assistance and develop standard EMMPs, modified by region and shelter types as needed.
- Use NEAT+ at the project level to identify additional EMMP guidance, for instance, related to land use, natural hazards and other factors not considered through the categorical assessments.

As standard shelter and NFI assistance in Afghanistan has similar approaches, uses similar materials and similar delivery methods, single environmental impact assessments can be conducted for each category of assistance yielding standard measures to reduce environmental impacts. These standard measures would be used in each case shelter assistance is provided, eliminating a need for repetitive assessments of the same approaches, materials and delivery methods. The same approach is used for EMMPs developed from normal environmental impact assessments.

A NEAT+ assessment would be additionally useful in considering site and settlements-related issues at the project design stage. In many cases the categorical EMMPs would also address issues raised by a NEAT+ assessment related to approaches, materials and delivery.

## 10. Humanitarian Programming

### 10.1. Humanitarian Programming Cycle

As a conflict-impacted country, Afghanistan goes through the annal Humanitarian Programming Cycle (see image at right). Further information on the HPC can be found at here, including the current year guidance and templates.


The Global Shelter Cluster has developed the **Shelter Cluster Tip Sheet for HRP Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming** for use in integrating environmental considerations into the shelter component of the Humanitarian

Response Plan (HRP). This process also includes consideration of environmental issues in the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), on which the HRP is based. Materials and suggested actions provided in this **Profile** can be used as input into the HNO and shelter section of the HRP.

### 10.2. Suggested Further Actions

It is suggested the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster:

- Seek to incorporate materials from the **Tip Sheet for HRP Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming** into the HNO and HRP documents.
- Develop a sector specific environmental strategic approach in addition to what is presented in the HRP. This Cluster-specific approach is needed due to an HRP framed by a *narrowing down the scope to core humanitarian activities and stricter targeting based on severity and vulnerability* (see the **Climate and Natural Disaster Risks** box above).

  This narrowing of scope creates a significant barrier to the integration of the environment, including disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation[9] and mitigation (CCA/M), into shelter and settlements assistance planning and operations in Afghanistan. The current HRP approach leads to challenges the *do no harm* and *humanitarian imperative* principles, the Sphere Standards, the **Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations**[10], the InterAction **NGO Climate Compact: Commitments toward Environmental Action and Sustainability**, the Global Shelter Cluster **Statement (on) Reducing the Environmental Impact of Shelter and Settlement** Responses, the **Call to Action: A supply chain Framework for the future: reducing the carbon footprint of humanitarian aid**, as well as the ECHO and other donor requirement to assess and address environmental consequences of proposed activities, including humanitarian assistance.

  A shelter-and-settlements-specific environmental strategic approach for Afghanistan does not need to significantly enlarge the scope of specific sectoral or project-level interventions. It can use existing simple, relatively low cost, environment-focused review and impact management approaches to reduce project-level negative environmental impacts.

## 11. GIS Data, Remote Sensing and Analysis to Enhance Humanitarian Shelter Programming

### 11.1. Overview

Humanitarian organizations in Afghanistan have access to a significant amount of remotely sensed and other sources of data collected in a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) managed by the **Humanitarian Spatial Data Center**. Complementary information can likely be found in GIS housed in specific organizations. Conversations indicate that AFAD had, in the past, a similar information repository, which does not appear to be currently publicly accessible.

The degree to which the currently available data is used to integrate environment into planning relief assistance or in planning transitional or durable solution-based interventions is unclear. In a normal context, information available from the **Humanitarian Spatial Data Center** would have an integral role in assessing and addressing environmental impacts of humanitarian assistance at a site level.

### 11.2. Suggested Further Action

It is suggested that discussions take place with the **Humanitarian Spatial Data Center** on integrating the information available from the **Center** into environmental reviews of relief or transitional shelter and settlements assistance. This integration can initially be

[9] In a humanitarian context DRR and climate change adaptation are functionally the same.

[10] Also see https://international-review.icrc.org/articles/the-climate-and-environment-charter-for-humanitarian-organizations-924.

for tools such as the NEAT+, and later be considered for more robust, settlement-focused environmental reviews.

# 12. Housing, Land and Property Security and Environment

## 12.1. Overview

(Text from Housing, **Land and Property Task Force (HLP-TF) Afghanistan April 2017 Fact Sheet**.)

***Background**: Forced displacement often leads to the loss of land, homes and other property with serious consequences for individuals and communities, who as a result are deprived of their main source of physical and economic security. Disputes involving housing, land and property (HLP) are both a fundamental cause of conflict as well as a result arising in the aftermath of conflict and can pose obstacles to return, reintegration and reconciliation. These disputes pose immediate protection and early recovery challenges in humanitarian operations. If left unaddressed, disputes on HLP can undermine peace and re-fuel hostilities.*

*Loss of land and property can have serious consequences for the lives, health and well-being of individuals and communities and expose them to various risks. Without access to land, homes and property people are often deprived of their main source of physical and socio-economic security, including shelter, water, and food as well as the ability to earn a sustainable livelihood. Lack of a home or a fixed residence can also restrict people's access to assistance and services, including education and health care, and limit their access to credit. As a result, displaced persons may suffer increased poverty, marginalization and risk of harassment, exploitation and abuse. Women and children often suffer disproportionately from loss of land, homes and property. Discriminatory laws and practices frequently prevent women and girls from owning, leasing, renting and/or inheriting property. In case of divorce or the death of husbands, fathers or other male relatives, women and girls may be forced to leave their homes, coerced into marriage, or subjected to other harmful practices*

**Eight Criteria for Suitable Land for Allocation**

1. No contamination
2. Under 5 km walking distance from access road
3. Health clinics in close proximity
4. Schools in close proximity
5. Building materials available locally
6. Soil quality sufficient for the construction of houses
7. Not of special cultural, religious, or archeological significance
8. Sufficient quantity of potable water

***Housing, land and Property Task Force**: The HLP TF, as part of the Afghanistan Protection Cluster direct its focus on the facilitation of a systematic approach to housing, land and property rights protection of displaced population, and other persons at risk of HLP rights violations- this includes landlessness and homeless persons. The HLP-TF aims to achieve its objective by a) improving access to land, b) strengthening security of tenure and adequate housing c) addressing HLP disputes and strengthening access to civils documentation and d) ultimately the durable solutions of the displaced population.*

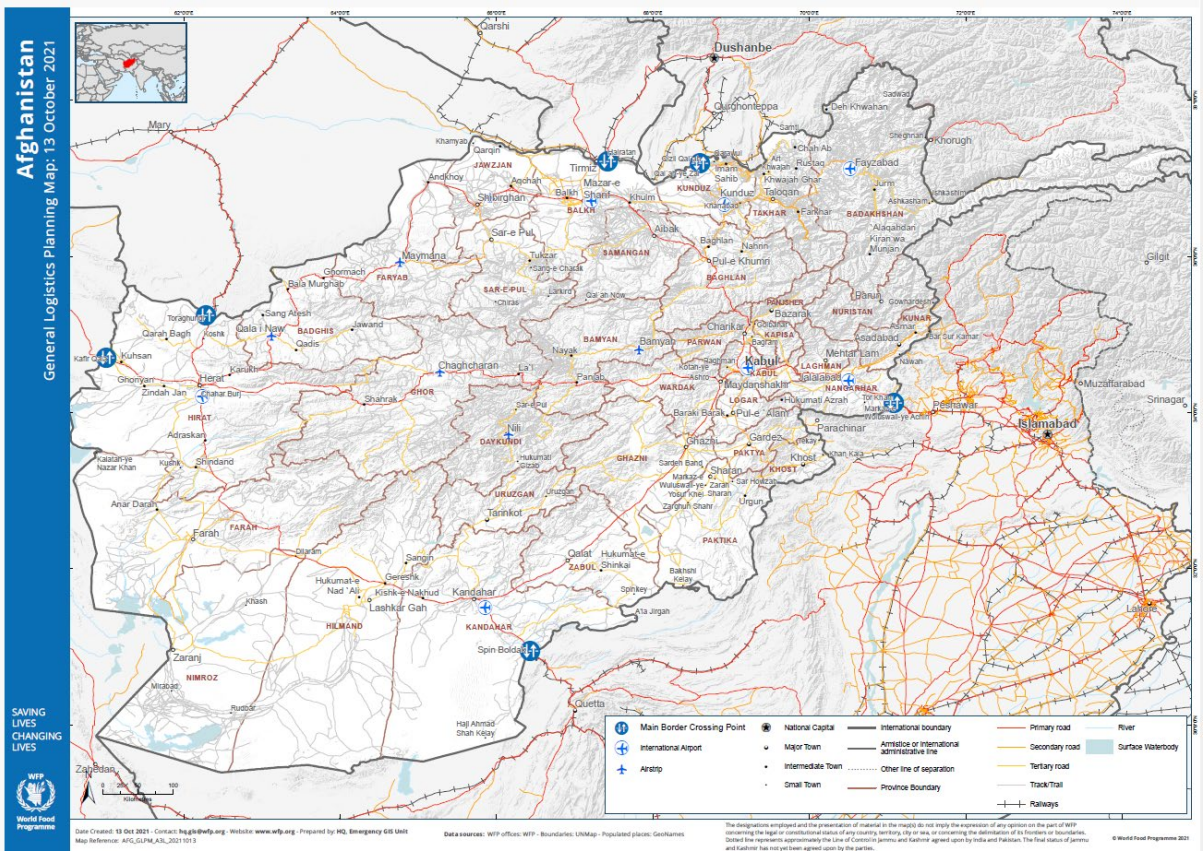
*Another key focus of the HLP-TF is ensuring legal protection against forced eviction. In 2013 the HLP-TF successfully advocated for the inclusion of the Guidelines for Mitigating Harm and Suffering in Situation of Forced Eviction as an annex to the National IDP Policy (2013). The Guidelines commits the Government to its obligation under international law on the prohibition of forced eviction and three obligations -before, during and after eviction. The HLP-TF thus works on monitoring, preventing and remedying cases of forced evictions.*

Additional details on HLP efforts by UN-Habitat can be found in Annex 24.6. See Section 14 on related matters involving site selection and planning.

## 12.2. Suggested Further Action

It is suggested that the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster:

- Discuss with the CCCM Cluster the integration of the *Suitable land for allocation 8 criteria* (see box above) into any site selection materials. Criteria 1, 5, 6, and 8 directly relate to shelter assistance and associated potential environmental impacts.
- Collaborate with HLP Taskforce to develop strategic note outlining shelter & settlement and HLP approach in Afghanistan.




# 13. Logistics and Procurement

## 13.1. Logistics

Most humanitarian logistics involves ground transport of commodities using trucks to and within Afghanistan and marine transport for deliveries via Indian Ocean ports. Although rail connections serve crossing points into Afghanistan and extend to Mazar e Sharif in northern Afghanistan, it is unclear the extent to which this lower environmental impact mode of transport is used to deliver commodities to the country, particularly through Pakistan, Iran and from Central Asia and Russia (see map below).

Air transport of commodities is, in general, limited to urgent situations. Personnel transport uses a mix of ground vehicles and aircraft.

Some Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster partners have storage facilities in Kabul and major regional cities. The Afghanistan Logistics Cluster Logistics Capacity Assessment provides location and basic storage space data on WFP-managed storage facilities in Afghanistan. Information on the location and operating systems for emergency shelter and non-food items partner storage facilities (e.g., source of energy, environment impact management) is not readily available, although an opportunity to reduce reliance on generators was identified for five UNHCR storage facilities.

## 13.2. Procurement

The procurement of humanitarian assistance by Afghan emergency shelter and non-food items partners occurs through three modalities:

- Centralized large volume off-shore (not local) procurement through offices based outside Afghanistan,
- From in-country and external sources by offices based in Afghanistan, and,
- Direct small volume purchases from local retailers by affected populations through cash or voucher assistance.

Individual partners may use one or all three of these modalities depending on internal management systems and programmatic objectives.

The first modality generally makes it easier to apply standard commodity, packaging and shipping specifications, for instance from the IFRC Standard Products or UNHCR Core Relief Items catalogues. This is less the case for the other two modalities.

While procurement through in-country offices can use the same standards as IFRC or UNHCR, the means to do due diligence of factories may be limited. This due diligence is important to ensure manufacturers and suppliers meet relevant environmental, safety and human rights standards. Meeting relevant standards when providing cash or vouchers can be a challenge given the intended latitude given to those provided cash/vouchers in selecting items available on the market.

### 13.3. Suggested Further Actions

It is suggested that the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster collaborate with the Logistics Cluster to

- Identify options to reduce the consumption of transport sector hydro-carbon-based fuels to reduce the carbon emissions associated with shelter and NFI-related assistance and operations (see Section 20, below).
- Identify options to reduce hydro-carbon-based energy use and improve environmental management of storage facilities used by Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item Cluster partners (see Section 20, below).
- Promote the use of top-level standards set by IFRC and UNHCR for shelter and NFI procurements and the reduction of packaging to reduce the generation of unnecessary waste.
- Promote a common approach to assessing the environmental and other impacts of in-country procurements by organizations or using cash or vouchers (see Section 19).

These steps should also consider the Logistic Cluster strategic priorities at the national and global level, for instance, related to waste management and reuse of shipping materials and efforts of the WREC Project.

## 14. Site Selection and Planning

### 14.1. Overview

Site selection and planning is primarily done by local authorities. The CCCM Working Group provides an opportunity to expand the level of technical input into the site planning process from an environmental perspective.

While the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster may not be directly involved in the overall site planning process, multiple environmental aspects of shelter, NFI and settlement impacts are linked to the site selection and planning process. As a result, Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster partner operations can have a significant impact on the environment, with these possible impacts assessed and addressed in line with Sphere Standard 7 for shelter.

Also see Section 12 on **Housing, Land and Property Security** related to site selection.

**Eight Criteria for Suitable Land for Allocation**

1. No contamination
2. Under 5 km walking distance from access road
3. Health clinics in close proximity
4. Schools in close proximity
5. Building materials available locally
6. Soil quality sufficient for the construction of houses
7. Not of special cultural, religious, or archeological significance
8. Sufficient quantity of potable water.

From **Housing, Land and Property Task Force (HLP-TF) Afghanistan April 2017 Fact Sheet**.)

### 14.2. Identification and Allocation of Suitable Land for the Re-integration (Decree 305)

**Presidential Decree 305 on the Identification and Allocation of Suitable Land for the Re-integration and Construction of Affordable Housing for Returnees, Internally Displaced Persons and Families of Martyrs of the Country's Security and Defense Forces** provides relatively detailed instructions for the selection and development of land for the settlement of IDPs and others. The instructions fit within the **Eight Criteria for Suitable Land for Allocation** (see above).

Specific guidance in **Decree 305** related to the environment includes:

*Article 8:*

*1. The Afghanistan Land Authority, in collaboration with the relevant national and provincial authorities, is responsible for identifying, surveying, conducting land clearance, and registering suitable state land in the Land Bank for allocation to returnees, internally displaced persons and martyrs' families.*

*Article 9:*

*Land that meets all the core criteria set out below is suitable for allocation to returnees, internally displaced persons and martyrs' families:*

*1. Land allocated pursuant to this Decree shall not be a water resource or in a water shed.*

*2. The type of proposed land is not prohibited from allocation by the Law.*

*3. The land is clear of landmines, explosives, and high level of contamination.*

*4. The land is located in close proximity to existing or potential livelihood or employment opportunities.*

*5. The land has access to a planned or existing adequate water supply.*

*6. The land has no foreseeable risk of severe hazards such as heavy floods, avalanches, and landslides, and the topographic slope of the land does not exceed 15%.*

*Article 10:*

*1. The recommended criteria for the identification of suitable land are as follows:*

*i) The land is not contaminated by chemical, biological, or any other kind of pollutants*

*ii) The land is located in close proximity to an existing or planned access road by the relevant institutions or one of the National Development Programmes.*

*iii) The land is located in close proximity to at least one planned or existing health clinic by the relevant institutions or one of the National Development Programmes.*

*iv) The land is located in close proximity to at least one planned or existing school by the relevant institutions or one of the National Development Programmes.*

*v) The necessary construction materials should be available in close proximity to the land and can be sourced in a manner that is economically feasible for vulnerable families.*

*vi) The soil quality of the land is suitable for the construction of houses.*

*vii) The land shall not be of specific cultural, religious, or archaeological significance.*

*2. Land that requires land improvement measures in order to meet the recommended criteria in (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) of paragraph 1 of this article, may be allocated to returnees, internally displaced persons, and martyrs' families pending*

*completion of the land improvement measures.*
*3. Land that requires land improvement measures in order to meet the recommended requirements in (i) (vi) or (vii) of paragraph 1 of this article may not be allocated to returnees, internally displaced persons, or martyrs' families until the satisfactory completion of the land improvement measures.*
*Article 11:*
*Where the Land Identification and Selection Committee determines that the land fails to meet any of the recommended requirements, the Land Requesting Authority shall identify the necessary improvement measurements in accordance with one of the National Priority Programmes to ensure that, within three years, the land will meet the recommended requirements.*
*Article 12:*
*Prior to the allocation of land, the Land Requesting Authority, the Provincial Directorate of Urban Development and housing, the respective municipality or, where the land is located in the Capital Region, the Capital Region Independent Development Authority or Kabul Municipality, shall conduct site planning and community planning in accordance with the relevant guidelines.*

While these measures generally reflect environmentally sound practices, there would remain a need for an actual review of possible environmental impacts to develop management and monitoring plans and assure adequate financing to reduce negative environmental impacts.

### 14.3. Suggested Further Actions

It is suggested that the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster collaborate with the CCCM Working Group to develop Afghan-specific site selection and planning environmental assessment and guidance materials. The materials can be based on existing shelter and camp management content (e.g., Camp Management Handbook) as well as other sources (e.g., the Site Planning module of the **Green Recovery and Reconstruction Training Toolkit**). This work should cover upgrading sites and site-related disaster risk reduction efforts.

Given that the same types of assistance are provided for site development, a programmatic or categorical approach to reviewing environmental impacts can be used. Under this approach, a single review and management and monitoring plan is done for the same or similar activities, eliminating a need for reviews and plans for each individual intervention or project.

## 15. Winterization

### 15.1. Overview

Afghanistan experiences brutal winters. With temperatures often dropping below zero, snowfalls are frequent and sometimes heavy. January, with an average temperature of -1°C, is the coldest month, and occasional drops to -25°C occur. The harsh winter exacerbates the already severe conditions faced by millions across the country. Heavy snowfall and rain disrupt flights and impact various areas, making aid delivery challenging.

Specific issues which need consideration in shelter and NFI programming include:

**Inadequate Shelter**: Many families, especially those displaced due to conflict, disasters, or economic instability, live in makeshift tents or overcrowded temporary shelters. The lack of adequate shelter leaves them exposed to the elements, leading to respiratory illnesses, frostbite, and other life-threatening conditions.

**Food Insecurity**: Winter exacerbates an already dire food security situation in Afghanistan. Limited access to food is compounded by the seasonal disruption of agricultural activities. Families struggle to find and afford essential provisions, leading to malnutrition and weakened immune systems.

**Heating Challenges**: Reliable heating is a luxury that many Afghans cannot afford. In rural areas, where most of the population resides, the lack of infrastructure makes it difficult

to secure sufficient fuel for heating. Households resort to using traditional methods like burning wood or dung, contributing to deforestation and indoor air pollution.

**Health Risks**: The poor air quality during winter poses significant health risks, particularly respiratory problems, to the population. Children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions are especially vulnerable.

**Healthcare Strain**: The demand for medical services rises during winter as cold-related illnesses surge. The healthcare infrastructure struggles to cope, especially in remote areas with limited access to facilities, medications, and trained professionals.

**Air Quality & Pollution**, including:

**Use of Solid Fuels**: Many households burn wood, coal, and other biomass for heating, which contributes to the high levels of air pollution. The lack of access to cleaner fuels and heating technologies exacerbates this issue.

**Increased Particulate Matter**: During winter, the levels of particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) in the air often rise. This is due to several factors, including the increased use of solid fuels for heating and the atmospheric conditions that trap pollutants close to the ground.

**Geographical Factors**: Kabul's location in a narrow valley surrounded by mountains contributes to the accumulation of air pollutants, as there is limited air circulation to disperse the smog.

**Visibility and Transportation**: Heavy smog can reduce visibility, affecting transportation and daily life. It can also disrupt flights and other forms of travel.

**Economic Impact**: The increased health risks and reduced productivity due to pollution-related illnesses can have an economic impact on families and the healthcare system. Efforts to monitor air quality and implement measures to reduce pollution are crucial, especially during the winter months when the problem is most acute. Introducing cleaner heating solutions and improving urban infrastructure can help mitigate the effects of air pollution in Afghanistan's cold season.

### 15.2. Suggested Further Actions

It is suggested that the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster:

- Expand the promotion of fuel-efficient stoves, to reduce indoor and outdoor air pollution,
- Consider shifting to lesser polluting fuels for heating and cooking, e.g., bottled natural gas or electricity, where the increased cost should be compared with the use of other fuels in terms of air pollution and health impacts.
- Develop shelter design modification to improve the heat retention of specific shelter rooms (e.g., One-warm-room approach) to improve heating efficiency.

Note that efforts to reduce heating requirements and levels of air pollution may be considered as measures to mitigation climate change (i.e., reducing carbon equivalent emissions) and may be eligible for climate change mitigation funding.

## 16. Site Decommissioning

### 16.1. Overview

The Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster has not, here-to-fore, been involved in site decommissioning. It is likely that the CCCM Working Group would be the humanitarian lead in these efforts. At the same time, the results of site decommissioning are one of the Sphere Shelter Standard 7 environmental indicators[11] and it is likely that Cluster partners may have come involvement in these efforts.

### 16.2. Suggested Further Actions

It is suggested that the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster collaborate with the CCCM Working Group to develop Afghan-specific site decommissioning guidance

[11] % of temporary settlement sites restored to a better condition than before use.

materials. These materials can be based on existing shelter and camp management content (e.g., Camp Management Handbook) and the following:

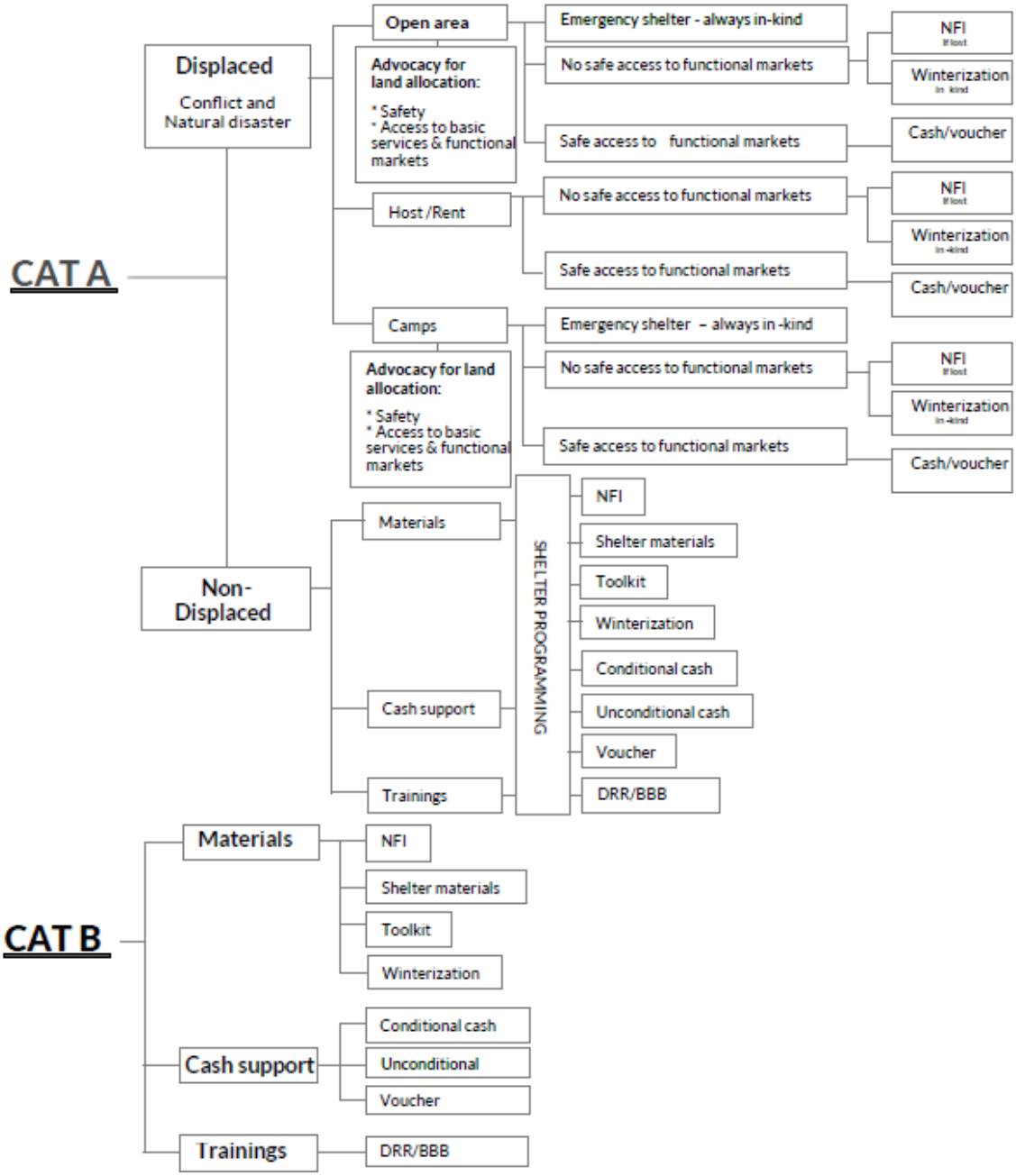
- **VEHA - Field Implementation Guidance: Decommissioning of sites and handover.**
- **Environmental Perspectives of Camp Phase-Out and Closure: A Compendium of Lessons Learned from Africa**

# 17. Shelter Assistance

## 17.1. Overview

The Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster focuses on providing emergency and transitional shelter while recognizing the links between these efforts and permanent shelter, which can be provided by Cluster partners in some cases. **Cluster Standards and Guidelines** provides comprehensive information on shelter assistance covering technical capacities, assessments, defining beneficiaries, shelter and NFI specifications, winterization, cash assistance.

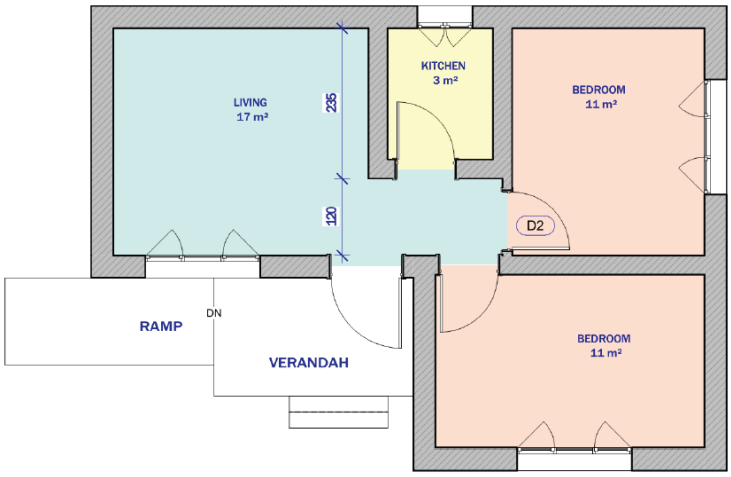
The following typology covers the range of conditions faced by disaster-affected populations and anticipated shelter and NFI assistance options following a disaster. *CAT A* covers shelter damage which cannot be repaired and NFIs which cannot be recovered due to a disaster. *CAT B* covers shelter damage which is significant damage but can be repaired. A *CAT C* covers shelter with minor damage that can be repaired by the owners/occupants.




**Cluster Standards and Guidelines** provides a range of guidance and includes or provides links to a range of topical Tip Sheets. There is limited mention of environment in the **Guidelines** or tip sheets.

The **Guidelines for Transitional Shelter Support** provides extensive information on assessing needs for, organizing the provision of, and constructing a two or three room plus internal kitchen transitional shelter (see three-room version below). Transitional shelters are commonly

constructed with cemented stone foundations and earth or fired brick walls. The **Transitional Shelter Support** report does not explicitly address the environmental impacts associated with the construction of these shelters.




These impacts are not likely significant for single buildings but could be locally significant due to stone and earth extraction when several units are constructed in the same location. As these impacts are well known they can be managed using known standard methods, e.g., repurposing borrow pits.

An exception is where fired bricks are used:

*The brick sector is one of the most polluting industries in Afghanistan as well as in rest of the South Asia. Apart from huge emission of Suspended Particular Matters (SPM), brick kilns also emits considerable amount of climate change relevant emissions such as the Carbon Dioxide and Black Carbon.*

*South Asian brick labourers are infamous for being among the most exploited workforce worldwide. Brick moulders and brick carriers are often bonded labour (slaves) and also children labourers, although no official statistics exist for Afghanistan. The firing crews use to be Pakistani from Peshawar or former refugees who have learned their skills in Pakistan have now returned to Afghanistan. Given the actual BTK boom, especially newcomers, face shortage of brick labours experienced in BTK operation. Working conditions in existing brick kilns in Kabul are quite severe and harsh with an unhealthy and unsafe working environment. Issues as seasonal work, migrant workers, and child labour are serious issues associated with Afghani brick kilns.*
Extracted from **Towards Environment Friendly Brick Production in Afghanistan - The Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln [VSBK] Experiences and Lessons Learned**. [12]

The Afghanistan Shelter Cluster web pages contain hundreds of reports and documents, providing a trove of useful information relative to the shelter and settlements assistance. A full review of the inclusion of the environment in these documents if beyond the scope of the **Profile**. The documents reviewed above are considered to provide a sufficient snapshot of integration of environment into the current leading shelter guidance.

### 17.2. Suggested Further Actions

It is suggested that the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster:

- Review key sectoral documents and develop environmental supplements covering environmental reviews and impact mitigation measures.[13]
- Assess the carbon footprint ($CO^2$ equivalent emissions) of emergency and transitional shelter designs[14] using the **Shelter Methodology for the Assessment of Carbon** (SMAC) or

[12] The use of "environment friendly" refers to kiln designs which as less polluting compared to current common methods, while the local impact of mining clay could remain significant.
[13] Under current sectoral good practice, it is expected that shelter programs will have environmental reviews and impact management plans.
[14] For reference, the **ES/NFI Cluster Partner Catalogue** provides designs developed by ESNFI partners.

similar tool and modify designs to reduce this footprint. As feasible, this assessment process should expand to a Scorecard Approach, considering factors in addition to the carbon footprint, for instance, through the use of the UNHCR Sustainable Shelter tool.
- Develop alternatives to the use of fired bricks, while avoiding alternatives which can lead to similar or worse environmental and human impacts.
- Review the use of energy at the household level and develop guidance on minimizing native human health and environmental impacts.

# 18. Non-Food Items

## 18.1. Overview

The Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster has developed detailed resources on non-food items. The **Cluster Standards and Guidelines** contains NFI-related guidance and specifications, as do the information in two Excel® files (*esnfi_cluster_nfi_kit_content_with_price_afg*, *ESNFIs Cluster cold kit (1)*) and the **Product Catalog** 2022. Based on available information, NFI guidance has not yet included assessments of environmental or other impacts or measures to reduce unnecessary packaging and waste generation.

## 18.2. Suggested Further Actions

It is suggested that the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster:
- Conduct scorecard assessments of key NFIs to identify a need to reduce environmental and other possible negative consequences. Annex 24.7 provides guidance on using a scorecard with NFIs.
- Assess opportunities to reduce packaging and consequent waste generation from NFIs. This tasks can be done with reference to the WREC Project and the Joint Initiative On Sustainable Humanitarian Assistance Packaging Waste Management project (see Section 21, below.)

# 19. Managing Climate Change-Related Issues

## 19.1. Overview

Overall attention by the humanitarian sector to climate change has increased. Activities to address climate change are divided into two groups:
- Adaptation, measures which for the humanitarian sector generally fall into the areas of disaster risk reduction or improving resilience, and
- Mitigation, measures to reduce the actual generation of carbon dioxide and other gases (referred to as $CO^2$ equivalent emissions) which can impact the climate. Climate change mitigation can involve both a reduction in $CO^2$ emissions by fully replacing sources of these emissions (decarbonizing) or by being more efficient when producing emissions (e.g., using hybrid vehicles).

Efforts to reduce the humanitarian sector contribution to climate change are framed by the following documents:
- **Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations**[15]
- InterAction's **NGO Climate Compact: Commitments toward Environmental Action and Sustainability**
- Global Shelter Cluster statement on **Reducing the Environmental Impact of Shelter and Settlement Responses**.
- **Call to Action: A supply chain Framework for the future: reducing the carbon footprint of humanitarian aid**.

Current attention on the humanitarian sector focuses primarily on reducing the quantity of $CO^2$ emissions, or offsetting what cannot be avoided. Some Cluster partners have total

[15] Also see https://international-review.icrc.org/articles/the-climate-and-environment-charter-for-humanitarian-organizations-924.

decarbonization as a long-term objective. For instance, ACTED has set a zero carbon strategic target and a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030. The UN's Greening the Blue focuses on $CO^2$ emission reduction to the degree possible and off-setting emissions where reduction is currently not possible.

The process of reducing emissions begins with an overall assessment of the carbon footprint of an organization or activity. The ICRC and partners have developed the **Humanitarian Carbon Calculator** for organization-level assessments of carbon emissions.

At the shelter activity level, the **Shelter Methodology for the Assessment of Carbon** (SMAC) or the UNHCR **Shelter Sustainability** tools can be used to assess carbon emissions associated with shelter assistance. Other open source or proprietary $CO^2$ emissions assessment tools are available, and the assessment of $CO^2$ emissions by humanitarian organizations is increasing.

### 19.2. Suggested Further Actions

It is suggested that the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster:

- Work with other interested parties to establish an intersectoral climate change working group with an initial focus on communication about climate change assessments, impacts and mitigation and adaptation approaches.
- Encourage the integration of climate change adaptation/DRR into partner programs and projects.
- Promote the use of $CO^2$ emissions assessment tools (e.g., **SMAC**, **Sustainable Shelter**, etc.) into routine partner operations.
- Support partners in identifying major sources of $CO^2$ emissions and options to reduce these emissions. An initial simple identification of $CO^2$ emission sources may be by considering where hydro-carbon-based energy is most often, and in greatest quantities, used by an organization.

## 20. Debris and Waste Management

### 20.1. Overview

Debris and waste management do not appear to be a focus of Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster partners at present. None the less, earthquakes and some other hazards can yield large volumes of debris which can be used in emergency shelter and rebuilding. Use of this debris can reduce the need for additional natural resource extraction and potential environmental damage.

Most IDP locations are expected to generate minimal waste as the IDPs are not expected to be resource rich and can be expected to maximize the use of any resource available before disposal. At the same time (as with clearing disaster debris) clearing and processing waste can (1) provide livelihood opportunities to support self-recovery and market access to non-food items and (2) reduce demand on natural resources to meet basic needs.

### 20.2. Suggested Further Actions

It is suggested that the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster review options for debris and waste management to support livelihoods and reduce environmental impacts with the CCCM and WASH Clusters and develop Afghan-specific guidance as needed.

Guidance on debris management is available from **Disaster Waste Management Guidelines (DWMG) Online** and **Disaster Waste Management Guidelines**. Additional information on waste is available from the WREC Project and the Joint Initiative On Sustainable Humanitarian Assistance Packaging Waste Management project.

Information on waste processors in Afghanistan is available here. Any decision to use one or more of these reported waste processors should be based on due diligence as to environmental, social and legal aspects of a company's operation.

# 21. Disaster Risk Management and Nature-based Solutions

## 21.1. Overview

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) encompasses nature-based solutions, of which eco-system DRR is a component. Afghanistan has a long history of nature-based DRR, with a significant focus on community-based interventions.[16]

Significant advantages of the nature-based approach are that it (1) is often less costly and more effective at reducing climate-related hazard occurrence and impact than other options, and (2) can improve living conditions and livelihoods.

At the same time, community-based engagement and work at a landscape scale (e.g., addressing the causes of flooding as well as building flood protection walls) on which nature-based solutions are based can require more than one year to achieve results. The need for a multi-year timeline confronts the current HRP focus of *narrowing down the scope to core humanitarian activities* (see Section 4.1, **Climate and Natural Disaster Risks** box) even as nature-based solutions reduce longer term disaster harm and hardship.

Further information on nature-based solutions for DDR can be found in **Nature-Based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction**.

## 21.2. Suggested Further Actions

It is suggested that, given the experience with nature-based DRR in Afghanistan and benefits of the approach to reducing disaster harm and hardship, the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster:

- Define a Cluster-specific approach to nature-based DRR.
- Encourage the inclusion of nature-based DRR in partner shelter and settlements projects.
- Collect and share information on past DRR projects involving nature-based interventions.
- Provide awareness and training on nature-based DRR, where possible in conjunction with information on climate change adaptation.
- Include DRR activities under the HRP through (1) the inclusion of seismic elements on shelter design such as sill, lintel bands, bracings, columns to reduce impact of earthquakes and the construction of simple drainage channels, barriers including levees, beams, and floodwalls, to mitigate the potential impact of flooding on people and property

# 22. Durable Solutions

## 22.1. Overview

The Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) in Afghanistan plays a crucial role in addressing the complex challenges faced by displaced populations. The DSWG aims to ensure a coordinated approach to seeking durable solutions for returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) as they reintegrate into their communities. The following text, developed by the in-country team, provides a history and objectives of the DSWG.

## 22.2. Brief History

The Re-integration Working Group (RWG) was convened in 2015, focusing on harmonized coordination, information sharing, and action planning for durable solutions. In June 2017, the Re-integration Working Group (RWG) was transformed into the Durable Solutions Working

[16] For examples, see https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/afghanistan-scales-ecosystem-based-solutions-help-build-disaster and https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/facing-floods-and-landslides-afghans-turn-nature-protection.

Group on Displacement (DSWG). The transformation allowed the DSWG to include all population groups (returnees, IDPs, and host communities) in planning and implementation.

The coordination structure between DSRSG/RC/HC, the HCT/clusters, the UNCT/PMT, and the government structure Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR)) to harmonize coordination, information sharing and action planning to facilitate durable solutions for returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities, at the national and provincial levels was suspended after 15 August 2021.

In October 2022, the National DSWG (N-DSWG) was revived under the leadership of Resident Coordinator and among UN agencies to resume the coordination and planning function of durable solutions to IDPs. The N-DSWG is led by the DSRSG/RC/HC with support from core members of the Global Steering Committee IOM, OCHA, UNDP, UNHCR and UNICEF. The Office of the DSRSG/RC/HC provides coordination and secretarial support. The core members provide policy guidance and technical support to Regional DSWGs. Core members determine leadership on regional level based upon priority and capacity. Provincial level WG's may be led by non-core members. Non-core members may possibly co-lead a R-DSWG depending on needs in the region. Membership to the N-DSWG is open to relevant humanitarian and development actors, UN agencies, NGOs, IFIs, cluster leads, and civil society organizations, who are actively engaged in implementing durable solution-related activities for IDPs in Afghanistan. The core group comprising IOM, OCHA, UNDP, UNHCR and UNICEF share responsibility for supporting the functioning of the N-DSWG with day-to-day secretariat support until the permanent secretariat function is established. The Terms of References should be reviewed on an annual basis, and adjusted based on the situation, needs and gaps in Afghanistan.

### 22.3. Objectives

Under the leadership of Resident Coordinator and in close coordination with UNCT, the N-DSWG serves as a policy decision, coordination, and technical forum for developing and overseeing methodologies, joint planning, and interventions by stakeholders, and ensuring that the voices of the IDPs, including men, women, boys, and girls, are heard and can influence decision-making with an emphasis on ensuring the voluntariness of all activities. National DSWG will provide policy and technical guidance to Regional DSWGs.

The overall objective is to provide for the progressive resolution of for internal displacement within Afghanistan by assessing, modelling and scaling principled durable solutions for IDPs using a rights-based, needs-based, and solutions focused approach, including voluntary, safe, and dignified return to their places of origin, local integration, or settlement to other locations. The N-DSWG will focus on facilitating durable solutions for IDPs, defined as per the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) IDP definition, and apply the IASC indicators on "end of displacement". Durable solutions for IDPs should include peaceful co-existence and integration with host communities, and the N-DSWG recognizes that the solutions generated may also benefit returning refugees and other returnees as well as vulnerable migrants, built upon area-based approaches.

While the N-DSWG does not have DfA within its membership, the N-DSWG recognizes the important of engagement with the DfA at all levels to ensure smooth coordination to enable any programmatic interventions by partners. An interface with the de facto administration's DSWG will be necessary considering recent indications of revival of the DFA led working group and revision of IDP Policy.

The guiding document for durable solutions for IDPs is the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons and the Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and the National IDP Policy (2013), the Policy Framework for Returnees and IDPs (2017). In addition to above, activities of the DSWG are also informed by the OCHA

& Durable Solutions WG Joint Coordination Framework for Areas of Return from Pakistan. The later aims to enhance the collaboration between the Durable Solutions Working Group (DSWG) and the humanitarian coordination structure, balancing humanitarian, and basic human needs programming in Areas of Return, and where appropriate, streamlining the transition from humanitarian response to mid and long-term programming, and clearly defining the way of working.

The TOR is currently under revision.

### 22.4. Suggested Further Actions

It is suggested that, as the DSWG's development proceeds, that

- A clear concept of durable solutions be developed and communicated with partner organizations.
- The DSWG ToR be presented to all stakeholders for a unified coordination within the overall humanitarian effort.
- A clear understanding of roles be identified between the DSWG and Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster to promote collaborative efforts.

# 23. Annexes

## 23.1. Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster Partners

| Acronym | Organization Name | Contacts | Organization Category N – National NGO; I – International NGO; RC/RC – Red Cross/Red Crescent Federation, UN – United Nations, G – Government |
|---|---|---|---|
| ACTED | ACTED[17] | Country Director | I |
| AAH | Action Against Hunger | Country Director, Grants and Reporting Manager, FSL-DRR Head of Department | I |
| ACF | Action Contre La Faim | Country Director | I |
| AAA | ActionAid | Head of Progarmme | I |
| ADEO | ADEO | Deputy Director | N |
| ADRA | Adventist Development & Relief Agency | Country Director, Program Manager, Project Manager | I |
| AABRAR | Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation | Executive Director, Project Manager | N |
| APWDO | Afghan Paramount Welfare and Development Organization | Executive Director | N |
| APA | Afghan Planning Agency | Executive Director, Humanitarian Response Practitioner, Child Protection, GBV and Women Empowerment. | N |
| APWO | Afghan Public Welfare Organization | Program Director, Operation Director | N |
| AAD | Afghanaid | Grants and Partnership Development, Manager, International Programme, Development Officer, Programme, Development Intern, Programme, Development Officer | I |
| ACHRO | Afghani Community and Health Rehabilitation Organization | Director | N |
| ADEO | Afghanistan Development and Education Organization | Managing Director | N |
| ANURDO | Afghanistan National Urban & Rural Development Organization | General Director | N |
| AREP | Afghanistan Rehabilitation and Education Program | Program Coordinator, Proposal Writer & BDM, Social Services | N |

[17] ACTED acronym and name are the same.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| AKAH | Aga Khan Agency for Habitat | Program Manager - Preparedness | I |
| ACTED | Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development | Project Development Officer | I |
| AHDAA | Agency of Humanitarian and Development Assistance for Afghanistan | Small Business Focal Point | N |
| ARAA | Ansari Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan | Team Leader | N |
| BRAC | BRAC Afghanistan | Country Director, Senior Manager, Programme Development | I |
| CARITAS-G | Caritas Germany | Country Representative, Program Coordinator | I |
| CAID | Christian Aid | Country Manager, Emergency Program Coordinator | I |
| CAHPO | Community Action for Healing Poverty Organization | Director General, Program Director | N |
| CWW | Concern Worldwide | Program Director, Humanitarian Programme Officer | I |
| CARE Afghanistan | Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere | Country Director, Field Coordinator | I |
| CHA | Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance | Senior Engineer, Planning Unit | N |
| CORDAID | Cordaid | Shelter & WASH Project coordinator | I |
| CRDSA | Coordination of Rehabilitation and Development Services for Afghanistan | Program Manager | N |
| CRSDO | Creating Resources for Sustainable Development Organization, CRSDO | Program Manager | N |
| DAARTT | Danish Assistance for Afghanistan's Reconstruction and Technical Training | Humanitarian Coordinator, Construction and Training Officer | I |
| DRC | Danish Refugee Council, DRC | Shelter & Infrastructure Technical Coordinator, Shelter and Infrastructure Coordinator, Emergency Specialist | I |
| FCDO | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office | Logistics Capability Support | G |
| FSCWEO | Faradata Social Change and Women Empowerment Organization | - | N |
| HRDA | Human Resource Development Agency | Head of Program | N |
| IFRC | International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies | Field Coordinator, Operations Manager,<br>Senior Shelter Officer | RC/RC |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| IMC | International Medical Corps | Deputy Country/Program Director, Program Development Coordinator | I |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration | Shelter Programme Manager, Project Development Officer | UN |
| IRC | International Rescue Committee | Country Director, Humanitarian, Emergency Response Coordinator, Emergency Response Officer, Emergency Response Support Officer, Environmental Health Coordinator | I |
| IRW | Islamic Relief Afghanistan | Humanitarian Program Coordinator, Senior Programme Officer | I |
| JIA | Johanniter International Assistance, | Head of Mission – Afghanistan | I |
| - | Labor Spring Organization | Program Manager | N |
| NCRO | New Consultancy and Relief Organization | Director | N |
| NAC | Norwegian Afghanistan Committee, | Emergency Coordinator, National Coordinator | I |
| NCA | Norwegian Church Aid, | Humanitarian Program Coordinator | I |
| NRC | Norwegian Refugee Council, | Shelter Coordinator | I |
| OCHR | Organization for Coordination of Humanitarian Relief | General Director, Program Advisor, MEAL Officer | N |
| OHW | Organization of Human Welfare | Program Coordinator | N |
| ORD | Organization for Relief Development | Program Manager, Senior Program Officer | N |
| ORCD | Organization for Research and Community Development | Chief Executive Officer | N |
| ORCDG | Organization for Research and Community Development Global | Project Manager | N |
| PIN | People in Need | Head of Programm, Shelter Program Manager | I |
| RRAA | Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan | Project Manager | N |
| SCI | Save the Children | Humanitarian policy and advocacy advisor DRR/EPP Coordinator | I |
| UNHABITAT | UN – Habitat | Programme Support Officer, Urban Planning and Shelter Expert | UN |
| UNICEF | United Nation Children's Fund | Emergency Specialist | UN |
| WSTA | Watan's Social and Technical Services Association | Project Manager | N |
| WHH | Welthungerhilfe | Regional Manager | I |

### 23.2. CCCM Working Group

**CCCM Working Group in Afghanistan**

The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Working Group in Afghanistan was established in October 2021 to address the coordination, protection, and advocacy needs of partners regarding existing informal settlements, also known as Informal settlements (ISET). This Inter-Agency Standing Committee coordination mechanism does not create or promote camps or sites, but instead focuses on coordinating, protecting, and advocating for the needs of partners in relation to the existing informal settlements.

The primary objective of the CCCM Working Group is to ensure fair and dignified access to assistance, information, and protection for displaced people in camp-like settings. They work in collaboration with government structures and employ participatory processes to improve the quality of life, safety, and dignity for those affected by displacement.

To achieve these goals, the CCCM Working Group supports the application of various global and national commitments, such as the Camp Management Toolkit, Minimum Standards for Camp Management, Sphere Standards, IASC Gender Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action, Camp Managers Guide to Cash-Based Interventions, CCCM Cluster Paper on Area-Based Approaches, Management and Coordination of Informal Settings Through Mobile/Area-Based Approach Working Paper, Urban Displacement Out of Camps Desk Review, IASC Data Responsibility in Humanitarian Action, IASC Guidelines on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, and Camp Closure Guidelines.

One of the key aspects of the CCCM Working Group's programming is the active engagement and participation of the affected communities. They prioritize informal sites and settlements due to the high needs in out-of-camp response and pay special attention to the needs of vulnerable groups. They work towards improving service quality, building the capacity of local authorities and communities, and ensuring the inclusion of all groups through the establishment of committees and communication channels for feedback and complaints.

Furthermore, the CCCM Working Group provides technical support to CCCM Agencies and collaborates with key stakeholders to harmonize CCCM standards, develop joint strategies and approaches, and enhance service delivery.

In Afghanistan, the CCCM Working Group is co-led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) which also co-leads the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Working Group and the Afghanistan Protection Cluster. At the third quarter of 2023, the CCCM Working Group is composed of 24 members including UN agencies, International NGOs and national NGOs.

The Afghanistan Crisis Response Plan 2020-2022, updated on January 27, 2021, reports that as of December 19, 2020, there were 3.5 million people displaced by conflict inside Afghanistan.
Based on the last national review end of 2021 of all informal settlements in Afghanistan, REACH estimates that more than 1100 informal settlements are spread in 28 provinces (134 districts) for an estimated population of 296.476 HHs (representing approx. 1.759.438 persons).
Since its establishment, the CCCM Working Group has contributed to the protection of internally displaced people in Afghanistan through various activities:

- ***Provision of protection and coordinated multi-sectoral response***: The CCCM Working Group has allocated funds through its members for CCCM to enable partners to scale up urgently needed CCCM activities, to provide protection and a coordinated multi-sectoral response for displaced people residing in informal settlements and urban settings, as well as advocating for durable solutions.

- ***Enhancement of access to basic services and protection***: The CCCM Working Group has supported area-based and mobile site management approaches to enhance access to basic services and protection for displaced people.
- ***Support for community governance structures***: The CCCM Working group has supported community governance structures to facilitate the communication between the mobile ISET management in area where partners are deployed, the local authorities and service providers.
- ***Closed cooperation with House Land Properties***: The CCCM Working Group collaborates closely with the Houses, Lands, and Properties (HLP) Task Force in Afghanistan to address issues concerning housing, land, and property. While the CCCM Working Group focuses on coordinating, protecting, and advocating for the needs of partners related to existing informal settlements, the HLP Task Force specifically deals with disputes involving housing, land, and property. By working together, the CCCM Working Group and the HLP Task Force bridge the gap between coordination, protection, and advocacy needs of partners in informal settlements, and the legal assistance and support required for resolving disputes involving housing, land, and property.
- ***Bridge between CCCM and Durable Solutions***: in the context of Afghanistan, CCCM supports the implementation of durable solutions in several ways:
    - Advocating for durable solutions: CCCM works to ensure that the rights of IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) and other affected populations living in informal settlements (ISET) are protected, and advocates for durable solutions.
    - Addressing HLP (Housing, Land, and Property) issues: CCCM teams address HLP issues with a focus on durable solutions.
    - Providing technical and social support: CCCM provides technical and social support to field operations through deployment of CCCM experts or rapid response officers during an emergency with face-to-face training through the CCCM Capacity Building Program, or remotely where specific requests are made.
    - Ensuring protection of the settlement population: CCCM ensures protection of the settlement population by mainstreaming protection in all settlement activities, including household registration, site planning/layout, site maintenance and improvements, governance structures, community groups, and complaints and feedback mechanisms.
    - Developing meaningful linkages: CCCM aims to develop meaningful linkages between CCCM information, community engagement, and durable solutions response.

### 23.3. EM-DAT Disaster Data Base – Afghanistan

| Year | Disaster Type | Disaster Subtype<br>Disaster Sub-subtype | Additional Details |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1954 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1956 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1956 | Flood | | |
| 1963 | Flood | | |
| 1964 | Industrial accident | Explosion | Mine |
| 1969 | Drought | Drought | |
| 1971 | Drought | Drought | |
| 1971 | Landslide | Landslide | |
| 1972 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1972 | Flood | | |
| 1976 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1976 | Flood | | |
| 1978 | Flood | | |
| 1980 | Flood | | |
| 1982 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1983 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1984 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1987 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 1988 | Flood | | |
| 1989 | Transport accident | Air | |
| 1989 | Transport accident | Air | Helicopter |
| 1990 | Extreme temperature | Cold wave | |
| 1990 | Transport accident | Air | Antonov |
| 1990 | Transport accident | Air | Antonov An-12 |
| 1991 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1991 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1991 | Extreme temperature | Cold wave | |
| 1991 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 1991 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 1991 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 1991 | Miscellaneous accident | Collapse | Building |
| 1991 | Transport accident | Air | Helicopter |
| 1992 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1992 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 1992 | Flood | | |
| 1993 | Insect infestation | Locust | |
| 1993 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 1993 | Landslide | Mudslide | |
| 1993 | Storm | | |
| 1993 | Transport accident | Air | |
| 1994 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1995 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 1995 | Flood | | |
| 1995 | Landslide | Landslide | |
| 1996 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1996 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 1996 | Industrial accident | Explosion | Ammunition store |
| 1997 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1997 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 1997 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 1997 | Industrial accident | Explosion | Depôt d'armes |
| 1997 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 1997 | Transport accident | Air | Antonov-32 |
| 1998 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1998 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1998 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1998 | Epidemic | Bacterial disease | Cholera |
| 1998 | Epidemic | Viral disease | Acute haemorrhagic fever syndrome |
| 1998 | Flood | Flash flood | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1998 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 1998 | Transport accident | Air | |
| 1999 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 1999 | Epidemic | Bacterial disease | Cholera |
| 1999 | Epidemic | Viral disease | Acute respiratory syndrome |
| 1999 | Flood | | |
| 1999 | Wildfire | Forest fire | |
| 2000 | Drought | Drought | |
| 2000 | Epidemic | Bacterial disease | Cholera |
| 2000 | Epidemic | Viral disease | |
| 2000 | Epidemic | Viral disease | Acute haemorrhagic fever syndrome |
| 2000 | Epidemic | | Unknown |
| 2000 | Miscellaneous accident | Collapse | Roof |
| 2001 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2001 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2001 | Epidemic | Bacterial disease | Cholera |
| 2001 | Epidemic | | Unknown |
| 2001 | Extreme temperature | Cold wave | |
| 2001 | Extreme temperature | Cold wave | |
| 2001 | Transport accident | Air | Helicopter |
| 2002 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2002 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2002 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2002 | Epidemic | Bacterial disease | Pertusis |
| 2002 | Epidemic | Parasitic disease | Cutaneous Leishmaniasis |
| 2002 | Epidemic | Viral disease | Acute respiratory syndrome |
| 2002 | Epidemic | | Acute neurological syndrome |
| 2002 | Epidemic | | Unknown |
| 2002 | Epidemic | | Acute watery diarrhoeal syndrome |
| 2002 | Epidemic | | Acute watery diarrhoeal syndrome |
| 2002 | Epidemic | | Unknown |
| 2002 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2002 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2002 | Flood | | |
| 2002 | Flood | | |
| 2002 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2002 | Miscellaneous accident | Explosion | |
| 2002 | Miscellaneous accident | Explosion | Warehouse |
| 2002 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2002 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2003 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2003 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2003 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2003 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2003 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2003 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2003 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2003 | Flood | Riverine flood | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2003 | Miscellaneous accident | Explosion | Ammunition truck |
| 2004 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2004 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2004 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2004 | Industrial accident | Explosion | |
| 2004 | Industrial accident | Collapse | Hospital Jamhuriat |
| 2004 | Miscellaneous accident | Other | |
| 2005 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2005 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2005 | Epidemic | Bacterial disease | Cholera |
| 2005 | Extreme temperature | Cold wave | |
| 2005 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2005 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2005 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2005 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2005 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2005 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2005 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2005 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2005 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2005 | Miscellaneous accident | Explosion | Ammunition depot |
| 2005 | Miscellaneous accident | Collapse | Barrage |
| 2005 | Storm | | |
| 2005 | Transport accident | Air | Boeing 737 |
| 2005 | Transport accident | Air | Helicopter CH-47 Chinook |
| 2005 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2005 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2006 | Drought | Drought | |
| 2006 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2006 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2006 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2006 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2006 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2006 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2006 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2006 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2006 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2006 | Landslide | Landslide | |
| 2006 | Storm | Convective storm, Winter storm/Blizzard | |
| 2006 | Storm | | |
| 2006 | Transport accident | Air | Helicopter CH-47 |
| 2006 | Transport accident | Air | Helicopter Mi-8 |
| 2007 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2007 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2007 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2007 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2007 | Flood | Riverine flood | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2007 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2007 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2008 | Drought | Drought | |
| 2008 | Epidemic | Bacterial disease | Cholera El-Tor |
| 2008 | Extreme temperature | Severe winter conditions | |
| 2008 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2008 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2009 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2009 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2009 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2009 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2009 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2009 | Transport accident | Air | Helicopter |
| 2009 | Transport accident | Air | Helicopter |
| 2009 | Transport accident | Air | Helicopter |
| 2010 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2010 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2010 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2010 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2010 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2010 | Miscellaneous accident | Collapse | House |
| 2010 | Transport accident | Air | Antonov 24 |
| 2010 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2010 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2011 | Drought | Drought | |
| 2011 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2011 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2011 | Storm | Convective storm Winter storm/Blizzard | |
| 2011 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2011 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2011 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2012 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2012 | Extreme temperature | Severe winter conditions | |
| 2012 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2012 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2012 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2012 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2012 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2012 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2012 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2012 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2012 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2012 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2013 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2013 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2013 | Flood | Riverine flood | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2013 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2013 | Flood | Riverine flood | |
| 2013 | Industrial accident | Collapse | Coal mine |
| 2013 | Landslide | Landslide | |
| 2013 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2014 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2014 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2014 | Storm | Convective storm, Winter storm/Blizzard | |
| 2015 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2015 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2015 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2015 | Industrial accident | Explosion | Gaz tank |
| 2015 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2015 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2015 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2015 | Landslide | Landslide | |
| 2015 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2016 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2016 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2016 | Flood | | |
| 2016 | Flood | | |
| 2016 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2016 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2017 | Flood | | |
| 2017 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2017 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2017 | Storm | Convective storm, Winter storm/Blizzard | |
| 2017 | Storm | Convective storm, Winter storm/Blizzard | |
| 2017 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2018 | Drought | Drought | |
| 2018 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2018 | Flood | | |
| 2018 | Flood | | |
| 2018 | Landslide | Mudslide | |
| 2018 | Transport accident | Air | MI-8 MTV |
| 2018 | Transport accident | Air | Helicopter |
| 2018 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2018 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2019 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2019 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2019 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2019 | Flood | | |
| 2019 | Flood | | |
| 2019 | Flood | | |
| 2019 | Landslide | Landslide | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2020 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2020 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2020 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2020 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2020 | Flood | | |
| 2020 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2020 | Storm | Convective storm, Winter storm/Blizzard | |
| 2021 | Drought | Drought | |
| 2021 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2021 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2021 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2022 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2022 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2022 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2022 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2022 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2022 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2022 | Flood | Flash flood | |
| 2022 | Landslide | Avalanche | |
| 2022 | Transport accident | Road | |
| 2023 | Earthquake | Ground movement | |
| 2023 | Extreme temperature | Cold wave | |
| 2023 | Flood | Flash flood | |

### 23.4. Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Afghanistan Shelter Cluster
Afghanistan Rapid On-line Environmental Impact Assessment
Initial Results[18]



1. Introduction

ECHO is funding the “greening” of shelter and settlements assistance through a grant to the Global Shelter Cluster via UNHCR. WWF/US has been commissioned to assist five country-level Shelter Clusters in developing Environmental Profiles. These Profiles are intended to bring together all critical environment-related information which would be of use on providing post disaster or crisis response shelter in a country.

The Afghanistan Shelter Cluster was selected as one of the countries to pilot development of the Environment Profiles. A core part of a Profile is an assessment of environmental issues

[18] Prepared by C. Kelly, Disaster and Environment Advisor, WWF/US, ECHO-funded GSC Greening project, havedisastercallkelly@gmail.com.

linked to shelter and settlements assistance. This assessment is used to develop an environmental management plan to address the issues identified. The Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment in Disasters (REA), described in Box 1, was used to develop an online assessment form covered in this report.

This rapid online environmental impact assessment was conducted by the Afghanistan Shelter Cluster partners in October 2022. The results of the assessment will:

- Be discussed with key shelter sector stakeholders for revision as needed and
- Used in identifying the issues which need to be covered in the environmental management plan. The assessment process is described in more detail at right.

Box 1
Rapid Online Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology

The Afghanistan Rapid Online Environmental Impact Assessment (REA) is based on a Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment in Disasters methodology developed for use in humanitarian response. The method is set out in the Guidelines for Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment in Disasters - Version 5, 2018. The REA process is conceptually based on a normal environmental impact assessment approach but incorporates a recognition that detailed and conclusive results are rarely available during a disaster or crisis and a *Good Enough* approach is acceptable in a humanitarian response.
For the online assessment, elements of Modules 1 to 4 were converted into questions and incorporated into a MS Forms™ survey. Additional questions on gender were added to the survey.

In general, a Profile is developed before a disaster or crisis and used to support a response. In the case of Afghanistan, the Profile is being developed during the crisis with results linked to ongoing operations. The assessment only covers the environmental aspects of the humanitarian assistance provided. A separate assessment is needed to consider the environmental footprint of humanitarian assistance operations themselves.

The following sections provide a general overview of the assessment results and summaries of the individual responses to each question collected through the online assessment. Information directly identifying respondents is not included.

The assessment results indicate the general situation for Afghanistan as a whole. These results can be reviewed at the sub-national level to develop a localized understanding of humanitarian-environment linkages in the absence of doing separate sub-national assessment.

2. Results Summary

A ranking of issues identified in the assessed, REA methodology (see Box 1), is provided in the **Afghanistan Online REA Issues Ranking** table below. The ranking is based on the response frequency among the total responses (22) for each question. For instance, for the question on self-sufficiency, 12 respondents indicated that self-sufficiency was low, four indicated that solidarity was Neither low, seven indicated Neither low or high and three indicated None. As a result, Low, having the most responses, would be included in the results table.

The exception is for natural hazards.[19] This question allows multiple responses and are ranked based on the number of respondents indicated a hazard was an issue for humanitarian response in Afghanistan. Hazards which where not identified as important are excluded from the table.

A ranking of issues will be followed by a rating process, focusing whether the issues are considered to be immediately life threatening, welfare threatening or threatening to the environmental, but not threatening to life or welfare. This process will reorder the ranking and focus on issues which are most threatening to the basic needs of the crisis-affected population. See the REA methodology for more details on this process and additional steps involved.

Box 2
Environmental Issues and Gender
Two questions on gender were included in the survey:
- Are activities of men, women, girls or boys linked to the environment potentially subjecting them to physical harm, and
- Who might be affected?

Of 20 respondents, 14 indicated that harm could occur “In some cases” while 6 indicated that harm could occur “In most cases”.

In terms of who could be most at risk of harm, the twenty respondents indicated the following:
- Women: 18
- Girls: 17
- Boys: 14
- Men: 9

| Afghanistan Online REA Issues Ranking | | |
|---|---|---|
| Topic | Criteria | Rank |
| Natural Hazard | Floods | 20 |
| Water | Lesser part of needs being met | 18 |
| Food | Lesser part of needs being met | 18 |
| Shelter | Lesser part of needs being met | 19 |
| Health Care | Lesser part of needs being met | 18 |
| Livelihoods | Lesser part of needs being met | 18 |
| Ability of the affected population to safely manage waste | Poor, waste is poorly managed and causes negative environmental impacts. | 17 |
| Natural Hazard | Drought | 17 |
| Personal Safety | Lesser part of needs being met | 16 |
| Energy | Lesser part of needs being met | 16 |
| Domestic Resources | Lesser part of needs being met | 15 |
| Transport | Lesser part of needs being met | 15 |
| Concentration of affected populations | Moderate, that is households are more than 2 meters but less than 10 meters from each other. | 14 |

[19] Although not a natural hazard, conflict was included in the list of hazards from which selections were made.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| External assistance expectations | High the affected population expect most of their needs to be met from external assistance. | 13 |
| Natural Hazard | Earthquakes | 13 |
| Distance the affected populations have moved | They are not close but not far, that is to say more than 6 hours to a day travel by car from their point of origin. | 13 |
| Length of disaster | Months to years | 12 |
| Self-sufficiency of the affected population | Low, heavily reliant on the natural environment, humanitarian assistance and other sources. | 12 |
| Current livelihood options available | There are few to no options. Households have limited or no means to meet needs and are heavily reliant on assistance and accessing natural resources. | 12 |
| Availability of natural resources | Poor, damage is occurring to the natural environment. | 12 |
| Conflict | Internal Conflict | 11 |
| Number affected | Hundreds to thousands | 10 |
| Social solidarity between the affected population and local population | Not strong or weak, there are connections, but they are not strong or well established. | 9 |
| | Weak, that is limited or no social or cultural connections | 9 |
| Natural Hazard | Disease affecting people | 4 |
| Natural Hazard | Other | 2 |

3. Responses to Individual Assessment Questions[20]

| Which sector do you work in? | |
|---|---|
| Sector | Responses |
| Shelter/NFI | 9 |
| Coordination | 5 |
| Food Security | 1 |
| WASH | 3 |
| Livelihoods | 2 |
| Multiple Sectors (e.g., WASH, livelihoods, shelter, Health services) | 2 |

[20] Unless noted, there were 9 respondents to each question.

Box 3
Why does the Online Assessment cover more than shelter?

The Afghanistan rapid online environmental impact assessment covers a range of topics in addition to those specific to shelter or NFI materials. This broad approach to considering the environmental impact of a crisis is based on three points:

1. Under the settlements (or area-based) approach, a shelter is more than a piece of plastic. A shelter provides the location of a range of social and economic activities. If basic needs related to these activities are not met, then the affected population may be placed in a situation of unstainable exploitation of the environment. For instance, if the affected are provided shelter assistance to temporarily reside in a location without water or latrines or without access to fuel for cooking, this provision of shelter materials does not meet humanitarian objectives, or basic human needs.
2. Non-food items are intended to replace items lost by affected populations and to off-set the need to purchase these items from personal resources. However, providing water pails where there is insufficient water or fuel-efficient stoves where the is insufficient fuel, will lead to unmet needs on the part of the affected, possible damage to the environment and, in some cases, abandonment of the shelter site.
3. Successful shelter assistance depends on more than providing shelter and NFI materials and requires understanding the local context in which this assistance is needed and provided. Understanding this beyond-materials perspective is inherently environmental and includes possible sources of conflict over land use, conflicting uses of natural resources (e.g., between farmers and herders) as well as access to natural resources to sustain basic human needs.

The Afghan Online Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment provides a broad, strategic, perspective on the humanitarian response. The results identify issues related to how and what assistance is provided at the project level, where tools such as NEAT+ can be applied.

Context Overview
Please indicate the locations for which you are completing this survey. Write "Countrywide" if the survey is being completed for the whole country, that is, not for a specific location.

- Countrywide (5)
- Daykundi
- Faryab province
- Herat, Farah, Ghor, Badghis
- Kabul
- Kabul and provinces
- Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Helmand, Jawzjan, Zabul, Ghazni and Urozgan
- Kabul-Afghanistan
- Kohat and Logar
- Paktika
- Southern Region (2)

What are the sources of information which you are using to complete the survey? You can select more than one.

| Response | # |
|---|---|
| My own observations | 16 |
| Field assessment reports | 16 |
| Work on projects in addition to assessments | 11 |
| Conversations with affected populations | 12 |
| Reports from the field received, but I have not gone to the field | 6 |
| Other environmental assessment tools | 3 |
| NEAT+ | 0 |
| Cluster or OCHA reports and information | 0 |
| Government technical services | 0 |
| Other | 0 |

a. Factors Influencing Environmental Impacts

This section considers the broader social and environmental factors which can influence, positively or negatively, the environmental impacts associated with a disaster or crisis. This information is useful in understanding the systemic aspects of possible negative humanitarian impacts. The resulting analysis provides input to programmatic decisions on how to shape assistance to reduce negative environmental impacts.

**How many people have been affected by the disaster or crisis you are assessing?**
Explanation: This question refers to the number of people currently directly affected by the crisis or disaster.

| Response | # |
|---|---|
| Less than a hundred | 0 |
| Hundreds | 4 |
| Hundreds to thousands | 10 |
| Tens of thousands or more | 8 |

How long has the disaster been going on?
Explanation: The longer a disaster has been occurring, the more likely significant environment damage.

| Response | # |
|---|---|
| Days to Weeks | 3 |
| Weeks to Months | 7 |
| Months to years | 12 |

What is the concentration of the affected population?
Explanation: The more concentrated the affected population, the greater possibility for damage to the environment.

| Response | # |
|---|---|
| Low, that is households are more than 10 meters from each other. | 3 |
| Moderate, that is households are more than 2 meters but less than 10 meters from each other. | 14 |
| High, that is households are living within 2 meters or less of each other. | 5 |

How far have the affected populations moved in an average due to the crisis?
Explanation: Affected people who have moved far from their normal homes are likely to have less access to natural resources and normal livelihood support systems. This may result in damage to the natural environment.

| Responses | # |
|---|---|
| They are close to their point of origin, that is they are at or less than 6 hours travel by car from their point of origin. | 7 |
| They are not close but not far, that is to say more than 6 hours to a day travel by car from their point of origin. | 13 |
| They are far from their point of origin, that is to say more than one day travel by car from their point of origin. | 2 |

**How self-sufficient are the affected population?** Explanation: More self-sufficient populations are less likely to place unstainable demands on natural resources or humanitarian assistance.

| Response | # |
|---|---|
| High, that is meeting all or most of their own needs from natural resources | 0 |
| Neither low or high, that is meeting a good part of their needs from natural resources but also reliance on humanitarian assistance and other sources. | 7 |
| Low, that is heavily reliant on the natural environment, humanitarian assistance and other sources. | 12 |
| None, that is they are fully dependent on assistance or their surroundings to meet their basic needs. | 3 |

**What is the social solidarity between the affected population and local population?** Explanation: Strong social solidarity is expected to reduce the likely of conflict over environmental resources, e.g., pasture, water, land for crops, etc.

| Response | # |
|---|---|
| Strong, that is the groups have pre-crisis cultural and social connections. | 4 |
| Not strong or weak, that is there are connections, but they are not strong or well established. | 9 |
| Weak, that is limited or no social or cultural connections. | 9 |

What are the current livelihood options available to the affected populations?
Explanation: More livelihood options are expected to reduce demand on natural resources to meet basic needs.

| Responses | # |
|---|---|
| There are many options, that is all households have a variety of ways to meet their needs. | 2 |
| There are some options, that is, while households may have limited options, they are able to meet some of their needs. | 4 |
| There are few, that is, households have limited or no means to meet needs and are heavily reliant on assistance and accessing natural resources. | 12 |
| There are no options available to support livelihoods. | 4 |

**What are the expectations of the affected populations in terms of external assistance?** Explanation: A greater expectation of external assistance (i.e., humanitarian, charity,

community) can lead to tensions over the level of assistance provided and recourse to the natural environment when the expected assistance is not provided.

| Responses | # |
|---|---|
| Low that is most of the affected population do not need or expect to receive external assistance. | 2 |
| Neither low or high, that is the affected population expects external assistance but also has other ways to meet needs. | 7 |
| High the affected population expect most of their needs to be met from external assistance. | 13 |

**What is the availability of natural resources to meet basic needs without damaging the environment?** Explanation: Natural resources include water, wood and branches from forests and brush lands (e.g., for cooking or construction), grass (e.g., used for construction) soil for constructing buildings and other resources taken directly from the environment. Over demand on the natural environment will lead to environmental damage.

| Responses | # |
|---|---|
| Good, that is, there is not damage to the environment. | 2 |
| Fair, that is, there is a risk of damage to the environment but damage has not yet occurred. | 8 |
| Poor, that is, damage is occurring to the natural environment. | 12 |

How would you rate the ability of the affected population to safely manage waste (i.e., household waste, shelter or construction solid waste, debris waste)?
Explanation: An inability to safely manage waste will lead to negative impacts on the environment.

| Responses | # |
|---|---|
| Good to Excellent, that is, waste is safely managed. | 0 |
| Fair, that is, waste is managed, but the process can be improved. | 5 |
| Poor, that is, waste is poorly managed and causes negative environmental impacts. | 17 |

**Are activities of men, women, girls or boys linked to the environment potentially subjecting them to physical harm?** Explanation: Harvesting natural resources (e.g., firewood) can place individuals at risk of personal harm. Managing how resources are harvested can reduce risks and possible damage to the natural **environment.**

| Responses | # |
|---|---|
| No | 2 |
| In some cases | 14 |
| In many cases | 6 |

**If you answer *In some cases* or *In many cases above*, please indicate who might be affected?** Multiple choices can be made. Explanation: Identified who may be at risk is useful in targeting assistance to reduce these risks.

| Responses | # |
|---|---|
| Women | 18 |
| Boys | 14 |
| Girls | 17 |
| Men | 9 |
| I am skipping this question as I answered “No” above. | 2 |

b. The Presence of Natural Hazards.

This section helps identify which natural hazards are likely to impact those affected by the crisis or disaster. We find that events like floods or drought can occur during other disasters

or crisis. The results of this section help anticipate these events so that their potential environmental impacts can be considered in planning and preparedness.

Please indicate which of the following natural hazards affect the locations covered by the survey. More than one hazard can be selected.

| Responses | # |
|---|---|
| Floods | 20 |
| Drought | 17 |
| Earthquakes | 13 |
| Internal conflict | 11 |
| Disease affecting people | 4 |
| Other (air and water pollution; cyclone, no work opportunity to cover needs) | 2 |
| Fire in camps | 0 |
| Wildfire outside camps, e.g., affecting crops | 0 |
| Landslides and similar events | 0 |
| High winds | 0 |
| Sand and dust storms | 0 |
| Disease affecting animals | 0 |
| Pest affecting crops, e.g., locusts, Army Worms, etc. | 0 |
| Pollution from industrial sources | 0 |
| Other | 2 |

c. Level of Basic Needs Met

This section considers the level at which basic needs are being met as part of the household or external assistance efforts. Experience indicates that when basic needs are not being met there is an increased likelihood that the affected people will turn to the natural environment to meet needs and that this can result in avoidable environmental damage. (See Annex A for additional details.)

How would you rate the level at which the basic need for water is being met for the affected population?

| Responses | # |
|---|---|
| None being met at all | 2 |
| Lesser part of needs being met | 18 |
| Greater part of needs being met | 1 |
| Needs are largely met | 1 |
| Needs are completely met | 0 |

23. How would you rate the level at which the basic need for food is being met for the affected population?

| Response | # |
|---|---|
| Not being met at all | 1 |
| Lesser part of needs being met | 18 |
| Greater part of needs being met | 2 |
| Needs are largely met | 1 |
| Needs are completely met | 0 |

24. How would you rate the level at which the basic need for shelter is being met for the affected population?

| Response | # |
|---|---|
| Not being met at all | 2 |
| Lesser part of needs being met | 19 |
| Greater part of needs being met | 1 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Needs are largely met | 0 |
| Needs are completely met | 0 |

25. How would you rate the level at which the basic need for personal safety is being met for the affected population?

| Response | # |
|---|---|
| Not being met at all | 4 |
| Lesser part of needs being met | 16 |
| Greater part of needs being met | 2 |
| Needs are largely met | 0 |
| Needs are completely met | 0 |

26. How would you rate the level at which the basic need for health care is being met for the affected population?

| Response | # |
|---|---|
| Not being met at all | 2 |
| Lesser part of needs being met | 18 |
| Greater part of needs being met | 1 |
| Needs are largely met | 1 |
| Needs are completely met | 0 |

27. How would you rate the level at which the basic need for energy (e.g., cooking, heating, lighting, etc.) is being met for the affected population?

| Response | # |
|---|---|
| Not being met at all | 5 |
| Lesser part of needs being met | 16 |
| Greater part of needs being met | 1 |
| Needs are largely met | 0 |
| Needs are completely met | 0 |

28. How would you rate the level at which the basic need for domestic resources (non-food items and clothing) is being met for the affected population?

| Response | # |
|---|---|
| Not being met at all | 1 |
| Lesser part of needs being met | 19 |
| Greater part of needs being met | 2 |
| Needs are largely met | 0 |
| Needs are completely met | 0 |

29. How would you rate the level at which the basic need for transport to services, work, markets and natural resources are being met for the affected population?

| Response | # |
|---|---|
| Not being met at all | 6 |
| Lesser part of needs being met | 15 |
| Greater part of needs being met | 0 |
| Needs are largely met | 1 |
| Needs are completely met | 0 |

30. How would you rate the level at which the basic need for livelihoods is being met for the affected population?

| Response | # |
|---|---|
| Not being met at all | 3 |
| Lesser part of needs being met | 18 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Greater part of needs being met | 0 |
| Needs are largely met | 1 |
| Needs are completely met | 0 |

d. Closing

33. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. Please feel free to add any contents below.

- The population is greatly affected by harsh economic situation and rely heavily on humanitarian assistance.
- Affected population meeting meager level needs are prone to impact on the natural environment harm.
- Really you have set up good criteria for this survey
- International and National Organizations are encouraged to visit Faryab province as the humanitarian needs are high.
- Overall, the drought and natural disasters and some recent cease of conflicts affected more people of CHR especially drought which is continue for long period of time
- Daykundi province is a mountainous location that access is difficult for many NGOs and donors. people are mostly affected by natural disaster and internal conflicts that needs more attention. Let's not let the vulnerable people of Daykundi be forgotten.
- Climate change and environmental issues are so critical and crucial for the people of Afghanistan which need to be taken into high consideration by UN, International Agencies and Government of Afghanistan and i would like to appreciate this timely decision by ESNFI cluster.
- The coming winter will be a disaster for lots of families in Afghanistan.

Annex A – Unmet Needs

Level of Basic Needs Met

This section considers the level at which basic needs are being met as part of the household or external assistance efforts. Experience indicates that when basic needs are not being met there is an increased likelihood that the affected people will turn to the natural environment to meet needs and that this can result in avoidable environmental damage.

It is also important to note that there can be a link between specific unmet needs, for instance where a lack of adequate shelter leads to harvesting more fuel wood for sale to fund improvement to shelters. The results of this section are also useful in pinpointing where additional assistance can be targeted to reduce unmet needs.

A note on the ratings: Each question on basic needs uses the same five responses so that the level of needs met or not met can be compared. In rating the level of needs met, consider the following:

- **Not being met at all** means that the affected population has no access to resources from any source to meet their needs.
- **Lesser part of needs being met** means that the affected population has limited access to resources from any source to meet their needs and there are significant gaps in covering the needs.
- **Greater part of needs being met** means that most of the needs are met, but there are still important gaps.
- **Needs largely met** means that there are no significant gaps on the needs being met.
- **Needs are completely met** means that there are no gaps in needs and the affected populations' minimum standards for a need are fully covered.

The definition of basic needs should be based on Sphere Standards or other standards established for the disaster or crisis response. Note that energy and transport are included as they are usually integral to meeting basic needs.

### 23.5. Environmental Management Plan Description

(From the World Bank document OP 4.01, Annex C - Environmental Management Plan).

Mitigation

2. The EMP identifies feasible and cost-effective measures that may reduce potentially significant adverse environmental impacts to acceptable levels. The plan includes compensatory measures if mitigation measures are not feasible, cost-effective, or sufficient. Specifically, the EMP (a) identifies and summarizes all anticipated significant adverse environmental impacts (including those involving indigenous people or involuntary resettlement);

(b) describes--with technical details--each mitigation measure, including the type of impact to which it relates and the conditions under which it is required (e.g., continuously or in the event of contingencies), together with designs, equipment descriptions, and operating procedures, as appropriate;

(c) estimates any potential environmental impacts of these measures; and

(d) provides linkage with any other mitigation plans (e.g., for involuntary resettlement, indigenous peoples, or cultural property) required for the project.

Monitoring

Environmental monitoring during project implementation provides information about key environmental aspects of the project, particularly the environmental impacts of the project and the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Such information enables the borrower and the Bank to evaluate the success of mitigation as part of project supervision, and allows corrective action to be taken when needed. Therefore, the EMP identifies monitoring objectives and specifies the type of monitoring, with linkages to the impacts assessed in the EA report and the mitigation measures described in the EMP. Specifically, the monitoring section of the EMP provides(a) a specific description, and technical details, of monitoring measures, including the parameters to be measured, methods to be used, sampling locations, frequency of measurements, detection limits (where appropriate), and definition of thresholds that will signal the need for corrective actions; and (b) monitoring and reporting procedures to (i) ensure early detection of conditions that necessitate particular mitigation measures, and (ii) furnish information on the progress and results of mitigation.

### 23.6. UN-Habitat's Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Programme

See: https://sheltercluster.s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/public/docs/HRP-TipSheet-Environment-and-Climate-Change.pdf?VersionId=CYqr3FN9gUDvUEYCgaaEZSeWIQdT9VWH. Text provided by UN-Habitat.

Afghanistan is ranked sixth in the most recent Climate Risk Index, with a population exposed to drought, floods, landslides, and extreme heat. Residents of urban informal settlements are acutely vulnerable: located in hazard-prone areas; populated largely by IDPs; lacking basic services, adequate housing; and subject to frequent evictions by authorities.

In response, UN-Habitat's Housing, Land and Property (HLP) programme works to increase tenure security and strengthen climate resilience in informal settlements by deploying an integrated programmatic approach. The agency is currently implementing pilot projects in climate vulnerable informal settlements in the cities of Kabul and Herat.

The integrated tenure and climate approach incorporates three activity streams:

**Participatory land use mapping** including approximate parcel boundaries to create a spatial record of the settlement. Community groups endorse maps, and are supported to secure the endorsement from the De Facto Authority. This activity provides protection to the customary tenure arrangements that exist in the settlement by conferring a level of official recognition of

land use characteristics. In the longer-term, this activity can pave the way for household level land registration to further strengthen tenure security.

**Community-based solutions and strategies planning** identified critical climate investments, such as drainage and waste supply, through participatory research implemented through community groups. Community groups are supported to secure authorities' endorsement of the site plans. In this way, the HLP rights and climate resilient investment plan of the settlement obtains official recognition, reducing the risk of eviction and climate vulnerability.

**Priority climate resilient community investments** identified in the solutions and strategies plan are also actioned: to reduce climate risk and consolidate the settlement to strengthen de facto HLP rights. The community selected a flood drainage system, which resulted in a range of positive impacts for the community.
UN-Habitat is working on plans to scale up these pilots to address the large and growing needs across Afghanistan, particularly in drought-affected regions.

### 23.7. Scorecard Assessment of NFIs
### Non-Food Item Potential Environmental Impact Scorecard – Pilot Version

**Introduction**
The humanitarian shelter sector needs a way to quickly assess the anticipated environmental impacts of non-food items (NFI) as part of the decisioning whether to source NFIs locally or from external suppliers. The assessment process needs to consider the possible carbon footprint associated with the NFIs, the number persons who might benefit from the use of the item, the impacts of the use of the item and disposal of the item when no longer usable.

The table below provides a list of seven indicators of possible NFI environmental impacts.
This list has been drawn from a longer list (see **Original list**, below), with factors removed where it was assessed that information on a factor would be hard to obtain in the field or where a factor overlapped with another factor. While the removal of some of the original factors may reduce the overall comprehensiveness of the NFI score card, the current 7 factors are considered *good enough* to understand significant environment-related differences between different NFIs and provide input into decision making at the field level.

The NFI scorecard is not intended to be a highly complex assessment but to use information available to field personnel when considering different NFI designs and material and source and supply options. Where technical questions do arise, they should be referred to experts as part of a broader review of the possible negative environmental impacts of an NFI.

**Using the Scorecard**
The scorecard rating process is expected to be done by three to five persons who are familiar with the NFIs being assessed. Before the rating process (most likely done in a group setting) it may be necessary to share information on the NFI to ensure that each factor is clearly understood.

Using the scorecard involves 9 steps:
1. Review the factors and ensure they are clear to all participants.
2. Agree on the definitions of each of the scales in the scoring process for each factor. For instance, for Factor 5, the group doing the assessment needs to agree on what is short term, medium term and long term.
3. Identify a $CO^2$ eq. calculator for Factor 1.
4. Calculate the $CO^2$ eq. value for Factor 1.
5. Score the 7 factors, based on the scales provided and agreed to.
6. Use Excel to plot the scores using a Spider plot.

7. The points which are closest to “0” are factors indicating where the greatest negative environmental impacts can be expected. Note that “0 – no data”, presumes a possible significant negative impact until there is information available on which to base a different score.
8. Calculate the area of each of the seven triangles formed by lines in the Spider plot to produce a number indicating relative significance of each factor. The greater the area the less the expected impact.
9. Add all the area calculation numbers to establish an overall score for the NFI item.

**Understanding and Using the Results**

A lower number for any factor indicates a greater expected negative environmental impact due to that factor. A lower combined number for the areas in the Spider plot indicates a greater expected overall impact for that item when compared to higher scores for other items.

The scorecard process can be used to compare the same NFI composed of different materials or being procured locally or from suppliers located at a distance. This comparison can contribute to the procurement decision making process, e.g., whether one source of an NFI is expected to have less negative environmental impacts than another source.

The Spider plots can be used to identify which factors have a greater (lower score) or lesser potential negative environmental impacts (higher scores). This scoring identifies the factors related to a specific item which can be improved (raising the score) to reduce expected negative environmental impacts. For instance, this can be done by changing specifications to extend the usable life of an NFI or reduce packaging.

Additional factors can be added to the scorecard list as long as there is information available to assign the factor a number on a 0 to 3 scale. The steps in the 1, 2 and 3 rating scale should be clear, relevant to the factor under consideration and correspond to the information on the factor which is available to those doing the assessment.

**FNI Score Card Factors and Scoring**

| # | Factors | Scoring |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | $CO^2$ Eq # for transport from point of manufacture/purchase to distribution for all the NFI items being delivered as calculated using an openly available online CO2 calculator[21]. | 0 = no data; 1= high, 2 = medium 3 = low |
| 2 | Possibility of environmentally sound disposal. | 0 =no data, 1 = not likely, 2 = possible, 3 = certain |
| 3 | Physical potential to recycle the NFI item. | 0 =no data, 1 = not likely, 2 = possible, 3 = certain |
| 5 | Length of possible use of NFI item. | 0 =no data, 1 = short, 2 = medium term, 3 = long |
| 4 | Options for sustainable energy for use of item. (If no energy is required, remove the item from the scoring.) | 0 =no data, 1 = not likely, 2 = possible, 3 = certain |
| 5 | Number of individuals who could benefit from use for the individual item provided. | 0 =no data, 1 = few, 2 = some, 3 = many |
| 6 | Demand on local natural resources to use a single NFI item (fuel, water for cleaning, etc.), except energy for using the item. | 0 =no data, 1 = high, 2 = medium, 3 = none to low |

[21] Possible calculators: https://geodis.com/geodis_carbon_calculator/form#, https://www.ecotransit.org/en/emissioncalculator/, https://www.freightos.com/freight-resources/emissions-calculator/. Note that separate ocean, air, rail, truck and other vehicle transport $CO^2$ eq numbers may be generated for a single item depending on the transport modes used.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7 | Volume of packaging, for each item and for external packaging. | 0 =no data, 1 = large amount, 2 = some,3 = limited |

Original list

| # | Factors | Indicator | Source | Notes | Reason for removal from list |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | LCA – cradle to grave $CO^2$ Eq. number, if available. | $CO^2$ eq. per kg | LCA assessment | Not generally likely to be available | Not expected to be available |
| 2 | Transport to point of distribution (when not to be included in LCA, can be $CO^2$ Eq #) | $CO^2$ eq. per kg | On line calculator | | Combined with #3. |
| 3 | Transport from point of distribution to point of use (can be $CO^2$ Eq #) | $CO^2$ eq. per kg | On line calculator | | Combined with #2. |
| 4 | Environmentally sound disposal (when not included in LCA) | Qualitative assessment of disposal ` | Persons completing the score card | | |
| 5 | Use of recycled materials in manufacturing | % of kg | Manufacturer | May not be available | Information not likely to be available. |
| 6 | Use of materials with low environmental impact due to their intrinsic nature | Scale from low to high | Specialist assessment or criteria provided for non-specialist assessment. | May need to be expanded to more specific impacts. | Information not likely to be available. |
| 7 | Ability to recycle the product, including the ease of disassembly and facilities for recycling and market for recycled products. | Scale from low to high | Persons completing the score card | | |
| 8 | Length of possible use | Scale from short to long | Persons completing the score card | | |
| 9 | Options for sustainable energy sources for use | Scale from none to many | Persons completing the score card | | |
| 10 | Level of energy required to use (energy efficiency of product) | Scale from low to high | Persons completing the score card | | Information not likely to be available. |
| 11 | Reparability | Scale from not possible to highly possible | Persons completing the score card | Needs to refer to where repairs can take place – locally or not locally | Presume that there are facilities for repairs. |
| 12 | Ease of disassembly | Scale from simple to hard | Persons completing the score card | | Would also be covered in #7. |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | Possibility for environmentally positive alternative uses | Scale from easy to not possible | Persons completing the score card | May duplicate following | Refers to potential alternate use and may reflect expectations and not actual options. |
| 14 | Possibility for transformation into a different use / reuse / second life/repurpose | Scale from easy to not possible | Persons completing the score card | May duplicate previous | Refers to potential alternate use and may reflect expectations and not actual options. |
| 15 | Number of people who could benefit from use | Scale of few to many | Persons completing the score card | | |
| 16 | Demand on local natural resources for manufacturing<br>(when not included as part of LCA) | Scale from low to high | Manufacturer | May not be available | Information not likely available. |
| 17 | Demand on local natural resources for use (fuel, cleaning, etc.) | Scale from low to high | Persons completing the score card | | |
| 18 | Cost | Scale from low to high, per unit | Persons completing the score card | | Considered separately |
| 20 | Volume of packaging | Scale from limited to extensive | Persons completing the score card | | |
| 21 | Manufacturing processes that favour pollution control and proper waste management | Scale from high to low | Manufacturer | May not be available | Information not likely available. |
| 22 | Risk of harm due to human toxicity | Scale from low to high. | Manufacturer | May not be easily available or require specialist knowledge.<br><br>If high toxicity, would the item be procured? | Information not likely available. |
| 23 | Risk of harm due to ecotoxicity | Scale from low to high. | Manufacturer | May not be easily available or require specialist knowledge. | Information not likely available. |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | If high ecotoxicity, would the item be procured? | |
| 24 | Pollution / Eutrophication potential (particularly in clothing, bedding etc. items that are likely to be washed) | Scale from low to high | Specialist assessment or criteria provided for non-specialist assessment. | May need to be expanded to more specific impacts. | Information not likely available. |

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# AUTHORS AND INSTITUTIONS

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**The Afghanistan Environmental Country Profile on Shelter and Settlements** was developed through a collaborative effort led by C. Kelly from the Global Shelter Cluster, with contributions from Shelter/NFI Cluster partners, the National and Subnational Cluster Coordination Team, and other key working groups. Additionally, discussions were held with local authorities, including the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), and the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)

## INSTITUTIONS

**For more information:**

**Afghanistan Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster**, go to https://sheltercluster.org/response/afghanistan

**Environmental Community of Practice, Global Shelter Cluster, go to** https://sheltercluster.org/community-practice/environment-community-practice

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