



Barmal, Paktika , Afghanistan, © UNHCR/Oxygen Film Studio

Overview

Afghanistan's crisis, driven by natural disasters, displacement, economic challenges, and social inequalities, continues to heighten vulnerabilities and increase shelter demands. The 2024 Whole of Afghanistan Assessment reported shelter needs rising from 4% in 2023 to 12% in 2024, with female-headed households disproportionately facing inadequate shelter, eviction risks, limited access to winter clothing, and hygiene challenges. In 2025, the ES-NFI Cluster will provide emergency shelter, NFIs, transitional shelter, repairs, and seasonal winter assistance to crisis-affected populations of all genders and diversities. To address gender disparities and vulnerabilities, the Cluster will prioritize sustainable solutions such as repairs, retrofitting, and transitional options for vulnerable groups, including women, girls, persons with disabilities, and those with specific needs. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts will focus on high-risk areas, incorporating early warning systems, community preparedness, and improved settlement planning. Assistance will be tailored to local contexts, displacement phases, and tenure security, prioritizing districts with high shelter needs, areas affected by sudden-onset events, harsh winters, and informal settlements.

Guided by protection principles and the age, gender, and diversity (AGD) framework, the Cluster will work closely with line authorities to address operational challenges, leveraging on partners extensive expertise and employing standardized indicators, guidelines, and tools to ensure effective and needs-driven Shelter/NFI responses.

Critical Drivers of Need



Seasonal Shocks: Floods, harsh winters, and expected 2025 La Niña-induced droughts.



Rising Shelter & NFI Gaps: Shelter needs up from 4% to 12%; winter clothing shortages from 39% to 57%.



Informal Settlements (ISETs) Needs: Emergency needs rising as 950 families plan returns in Kabul; 14,000 more expected in 2025.



Community Priorities: Ensure Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and integrate feedback.



Economic Challenges: High unemployment and debt erode resilience and amplify humanitarian needs.



Protracted Shelter Needs: 18,400 families in tents/damaged homes; 87% of returnees cite shelter as urgent.



Gender Disparities: Female-headed households and displaced groups face heightened risks and vulnerabilities.



Geographic Focus: Prioritize disaster-hit areas, high-returnee regions, severe winters, and eviction-risk ISETs



Regulatory Barriers: Operational challenges arising from restrictions imposed by line authorities.



Acute vs. Systemic Needs: Balance immediate life-saving responses with long-term structural challenges.

Key Figures



People In Need
5.8 Million



People Targeted
1.1 Million

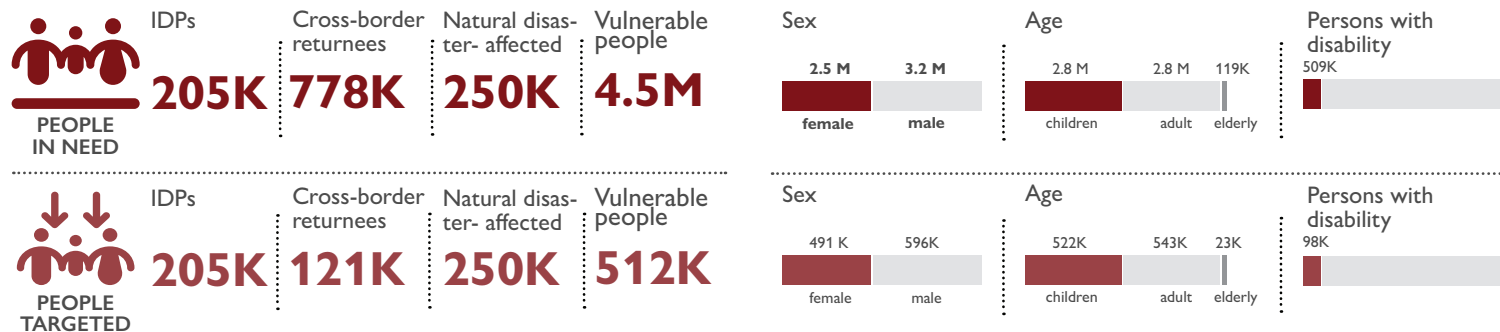


Requirement (US-\$)
\$ 179.1 Million
\$ 16.9 Million CCCM

PiN and target breakdown

by population group

by sex & age



ESNFI Cluster Indicator vs Targets

#	Cluster Indicator	Targets (2025)
1	Percentage of households that have successfully transitioned from emergency shelters to long-term shelter solutions through transitional shelter support within one year.	6%
2	Number of individuals with specific needs, including women-headed households and people with disabilities, receiving tailored technical support for shelter repair and construction activities.	98,623
3	Number of individuals supported in constructing transitional shelters.	121,786
4	Number of persons with disabilities receiving emergency shelter and NFI assistance after consultations to meet their specific needs.	163,156
5	Number of individuals whose shelters were upgraded, providing safer and more dignified living conditions.	206,958
6	Number of individuals receiving emergency shelter assistance, including cash-for-rent support.	479,394
7	Number of individuals receiving basic household items/NFIs to meet their immediate needs.	503,239
8	Number of individuals receiving seasonal winter assistance, including heaters, fuel, winter clothing.	1,005,630

ESNFI Cluster: Severity of Needs and Targets

