



DTM

AFGHANISTAN

COMMUNITY-BASED NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY RESULTS
ROUND 13 • APR – JUN 2021



The devastating effects of the drought had dire, cascading consequences, including crop failures, losses of livestock, decreased income, increased debt and displacement. © IOM 2021

DTM regularly implements its Community-Based Needs Assessment (CBNA), biannually, at the settlement level, as an integral component of DTM's Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA), providing a more comprehensive overview of the evolving, multi-sectoral needs in settlements hosting IDPs and returnees.

KEY FINDINGS

- Response actors should target areas most affected by escalating armed conflict, which are situated in provinces such as Kandahar, Balkh, Baghlan and Wardak. Key informants reported that deaths, fatalities, and security incidents are most acute in these conflict-affected provinces. 95% of all registered fatalities occurred because of conflict. This round of data collection registered a 7% increase in violent incidents.
- Drought and flood-prone provinces, such as Ghor, Badghis, Farah, Uruzgan, Helmand and Zabul, which also have the least access to markets to buy food and rely most on growing their own wheat, are extremely vulnerable to the potential 2021 drought in Afghanistan. Populations in these provinces already rely on various coping mechanisms, consuming less preferred, less nutritious foods, borrowing for food, limiting portion sizes and, in Baghlan, Samangan and Takhar, on average more than once per week, skipping entire meals. Households, nation-wide, also spend around half of their disposable income on food purchases, leaving households with limited savings for the upcoming lean period.
- Extremely high levels of unemployment, in combination with Afghanistan's informal employment and agriculture-based economy, offers only limited employment opportunities in urban areas hosting high number of IDPs, cross-border returnees and other mobile populations, especially in overcrowded cities like Herat, Kabul and Jalalabad. As a result of these increasingly dire economic circumstances, which are exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Afghans are increasingly migrating abroad to Iran, Turkey and beyond.
- Symptoms similar to COVID-19 remain widespread throughout the country, highlighting the need for increased COVID-19 testing, infection prevention and control measures. Health capacities need to be strengthened, especially in already overburdened and under-served areas such as Kandahar. A significant minority of the population does not visit healthcare providers when they are ill, highlighting the need to increase public trust in health service provision.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 34** provinces covered
401 districts assessed
12,949 settlements hosting IDP and returnee populations assessed
- 76,379** key informants interviewed
- 4,690,422** returnees from abroad [2012-2021]
- 5,515,643** IDPs [2012-2021] currently in host communities
- 5,691,380** individuals fled as IDPs [2012-2021]
- 6,001,105** former IDPs have returned to their homes [2012-2021]
- 3,611,348** out-migrants fled abroad [2012-2021]
- 1,666,163** (29%) children are out-of-school
- 16,713,413** (73%) individuals above 18 years old are unemployed
- AFN 38,017** (USD 494) average debt has been accumulated by families
- 9,055,670** (20%) individuals do not visit health facilities
- 21,970,471** (49%) individuals are in need of drinking water
- 8,048** (62%) settlements did not receive any humanitarian or development assistance during the past 6 months
- 1,357,507** (3%) individuals have at least one vulnerability/disability

METHODOLOGY

As of Round 9 of Baseline Mobility Assessment (BMA) data collection, the Community-Based Needs Assessment (CBNA) is included as a standard component of the BMA, which tracks mobility and displacement. The revised CBNA data collection tool operates using the same methodology as the BMA, targeting the same settlements hosting IDP and returnee populations.

The overall objective of the CBNA is to provide a baseline for programmatic priorities and geographical targeting of assistance, by providing summary statistics of socio-economic indicators such as employment, household finances, markets, safety and security, rule of law, health, education, food and nutrition, shelter, WASH and received assistance.

DTM predominantly employs local enumerators from the areas of assessment, who collect quantitative data at the settlement level through community focus group discussions with Key Informants (KIs). The current version of the CBNA takes between two to three hours to complete, per settlement.

Data collection, cleaning and validation operate on the following basis. Enumerators collect data, daily, using a paper-based form, which is pre-filled with data from the previous rounds for verification of existing data and to expedite the assessment process. Completed forms are submitted weekly to the provincial DTM office and verified for accuracy by the team leader. Once verified, the data is entered electronically via mobile devices, using KoBo forms, and submitted directly into DTM's central SQL server in Kabul, where it will be systematically cleaned and verified daily, through automated and manual systems. This stringent review process ensures that DTM data is of the highest quality, accuracy, and integrity.

Through IOM's partnership with the World Bank, DTM and the Bank will regularly conduct joint-analysis of the CBNA data, to produce actionable information at the summary and provincial level to inform national development programming priorities.

KEY INFORMANTS

DTM's field enumerators collect data at the settlement level, predominantly through community focus group discussions with community leaders, IDP and returnee representatives, district authorities, coordinators of health and education programmes and Community Development Council (CDC) members. In the rare case that DTM enumerators cannot physically reach a community, due to insecurity, conflict, or risk of retaliation, enumerators meet the focus groups at safe locations outside their communities.



76,379

key informants (KIs) interviewed



1,737

female key informants (2%)



74,642

male key informants (98%)



6

average number of KIs per focus group



9,078

key informants are IDPs or returnees (12%)



17,385

KIs from host communities (23%)



27,244

KIs from multi-sectoral and social services (36%)



18,118

KIs from local authorities (24%)



COVERAGE

During round 13 of CBNA data collection, DTM reached 76,379 community leaders in the 12,949 targeted settlements that host IDPs and returnees. This coverage is 20 settlements fewer than achieved by the BMA during the same round; due to recent escalating conflict, enumerators found no host or displaced populations residing in the settlements that could be surveyed. As such, DTM was unable to collect CBNA data in 20 settlements

While collecting BMA and CBNA data, DTM also contributed to the COVID-19 response by engaging communities and mobilizing community leaders to raise COVID-19 risk awareness, demonstrate effective infection prevention and control measures, and dispel misinformation and the stigma surrounding COVID-19. To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the safety of DTM staff, migrants and communities, DTM's teams maintained social distancing, practiced infection prevention and control measures, and used personal protective equipment in line with WHO guidelines.

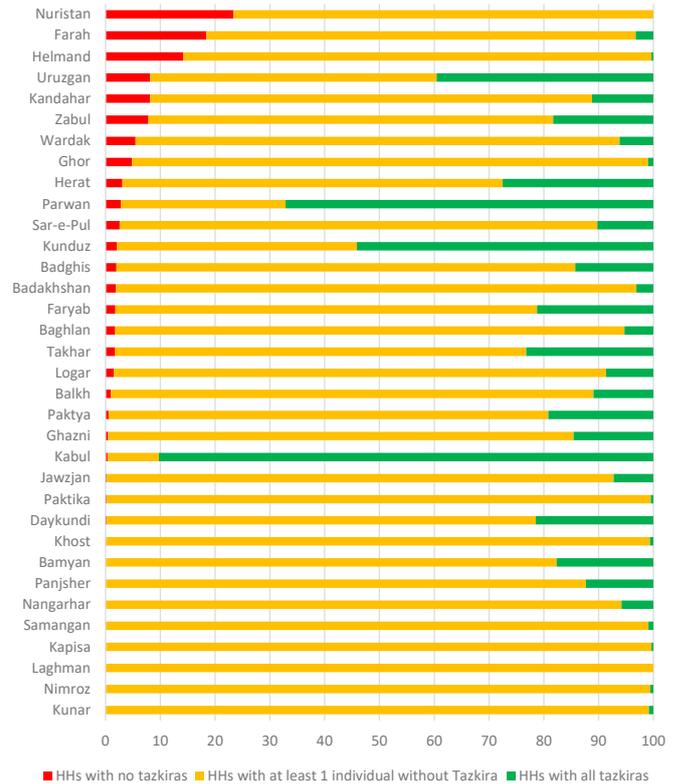
Province	Date Last Assessed	Number of Districts	Number of Districts Assessed	Number of Settlements Assessed	Key Informants Interviewed
Badakhshan	31/Jun/21	28	28	940	5,717
Badghis	31/Jun/21	7	7	293	2,306
Baghlan	31/Jun/21	15	15	588	3,581
Balkh	31/Jun/21	16	16	668	3,982
Bamyan	31/Jun/21	7	7	217	1,399
Daykundi	31/Jun/21	9	9	257	1,680
Farah	31/Jun/21	11	11	381	2,064
Faryab	31/Jun/21	14	14	293	1,456
Ghazni	31/Jun/21	19	19	411	2,009
Ghor	31/Jun/21	10	10	289	1,321
Helmand	31/Jun/21	13	13	291	1,445
Herat	31/Jun/21	16	16	634	3,990
Jawzjan	31/Jun/21	11	11	333	1,845
Kabul	31/Jun/21	15	15	581	3,287
Kandahar	31/Jun/21	16	16	413	2,672
Kapisa	31/Jun/21	7	7	194	1,298
Khost	31/Jun/21	13	13	585	3,527
Kunar	31/Jun/21	15	15	360	2,125
Kunduz	31/Jun/21	7	7	314	1,630
Laghman	31/Jun/21	5	5	217	1,225
Logar	31/Jun/21	7	7	380	1,953
Nangarhar	31/Jun/21	22	22	911	5,322
Nimroz	31/Jun/21	5	5	289	1,708
Nuristan	31/Jun/21	8	8	47	213
Paktika	31/Jun/21	19	19	295	1,474
Paktya	31/Jun/21	11	11	419	2,021
Panjsher	31/Jun/21	7	7	115	849
Parwan	31/Jun/21	10	10	400	2,475
Samangan	31/Jun/21	7	7	228	1,386
Sar-e-Pul	31/Jun/21	7	7	299	1,869
Takhar	31/Jun/21	17	17	582	4,013
Uruzgan	31/Jun/21	7	7	102	588
Wardak	31/Jun/21	9	9	230	1,525
Zabul	31/Jun/21	11	11	393	2,424
Total		401	401	12,949	76,379

DEMOGRAPHICS

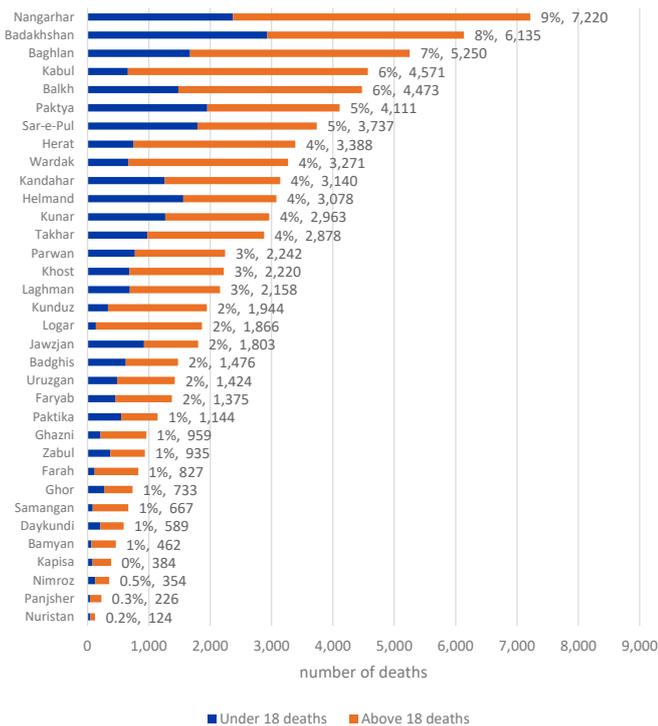
Death rates remain highest in provinces hosting Afghanistan’s major urban areas and those heavily affected by active conflict. Conflict, returning from displacement, natural disasters and access to housing are the major reasons for populations to arrive in certain settlements, most frequently as arrival IDPs. For population outflows, employment, education, conflict, natural disasters and healthcare are important reasons to leave their settlement of residence.

Tazkira ownership remains highest in government-controlled provinces, lowest in conflict-affected and remote provinces. Nuristan, Farah, and Helmand scored lowest in terms of Tazkira ownership. Key informants indicated that most vulnerable individuals (34% of all) live in provinces with large urban centres, such as Kabul, Nangarhar and Balkh.

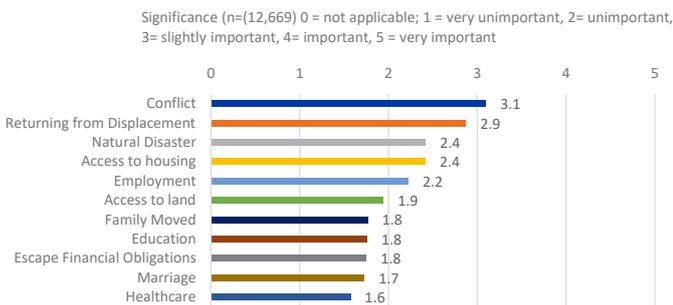
Tazkira Ownership | By province



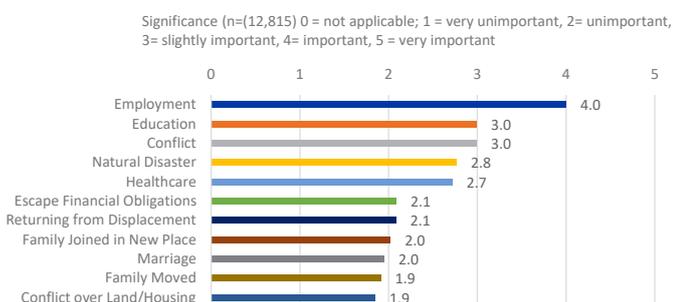
Deaths | By age category and province



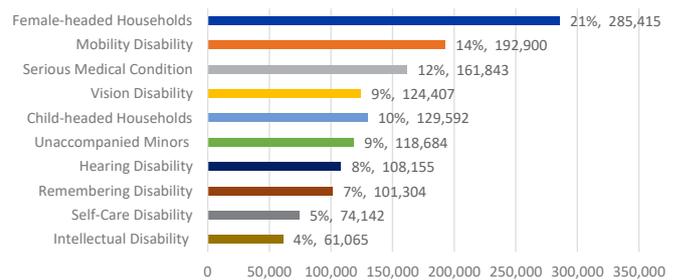
Reasons for Population Inflow Longer than one month | Ranked by significance



Reasons for Population Outflow Longer than one month | Ranked by significance



Vulnerability Criteria



These men, processing wheat in Imam Saheb District, are among the 37% communities in Kunduz, who rely on growing their own wheat, which is the main staple food in Afghanistan. © IOM 2021

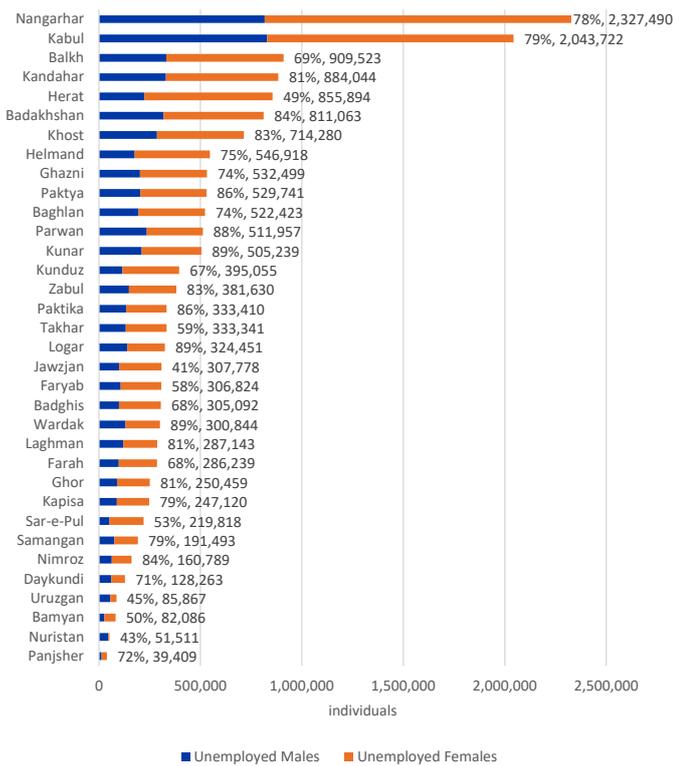


EMPLOYMENT

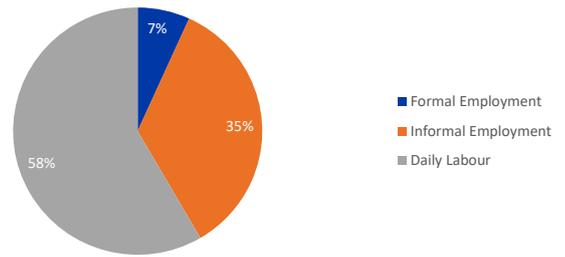
Three in four (73%) Afghan nationals over 18 years old and 57% of all males over 18 years old are unemployed. Provinces such as Kunar, Logar, Wardak and Parwan score highest in terms of relative unemployment. Provinces with low absolute numbers of unemployed persons are mostly rural, remote and sparsely habited, such as Nuristan, Jawzjan, and Uruzgan. This is likely because of their low population numbers and high labour demand for its unmechanised, agricultural local economy.

Results show significant differences in the employment of children and elderly individuals between provinces. In Faryab, 76% of children and the elderly are employed, this figure being substantially lower in Panjsher (1%), Nuristan (3%) and Daykundi (8%). Prior work experience, pre-existing relations with employers and co-workers, younger age, recommendations and higher levels of literacy guide employers' hiring decisions.

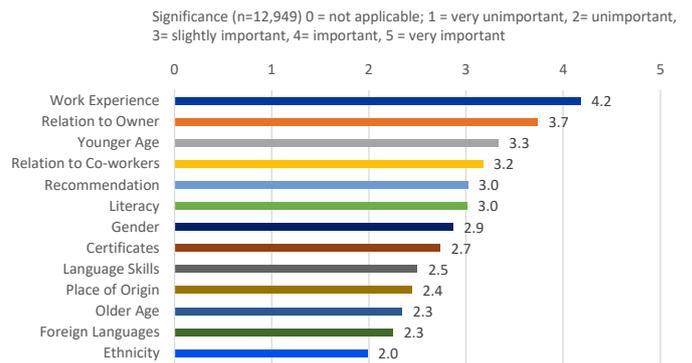
Unemployment Figures (18+) | By sex and province



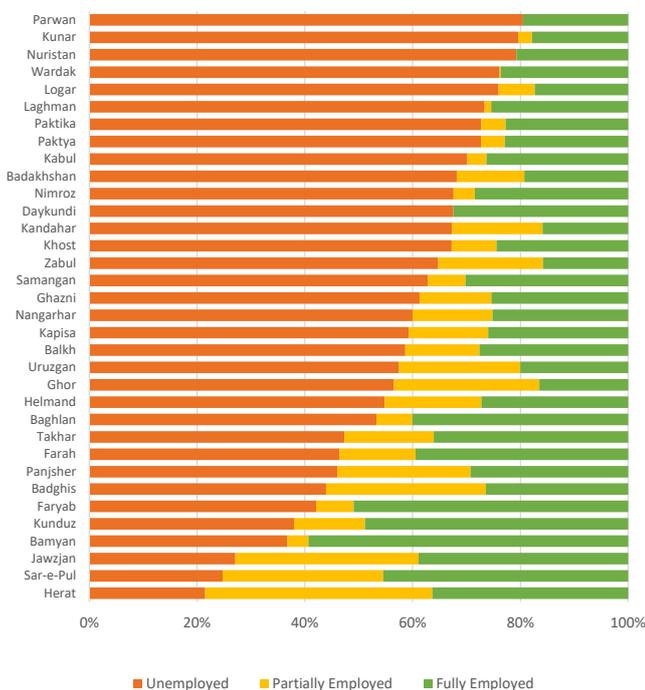
Type of Contracts



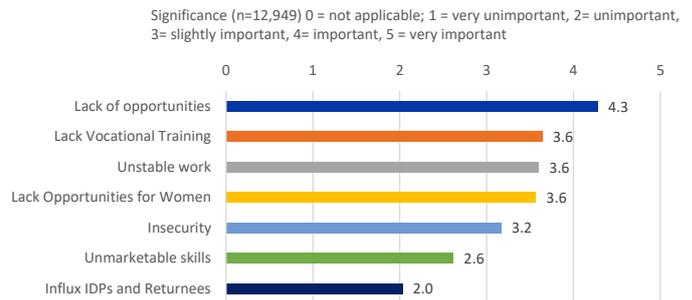
Employers' Hiring Priorities | Ranked by significance



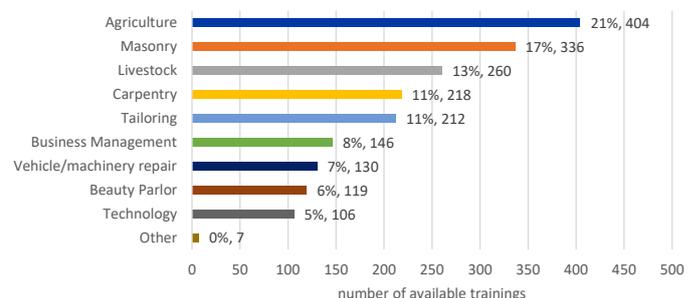
Employment Status | Men (males over 18)



Barriers to Employment | Ranked by significance



Available Vocational Trainings





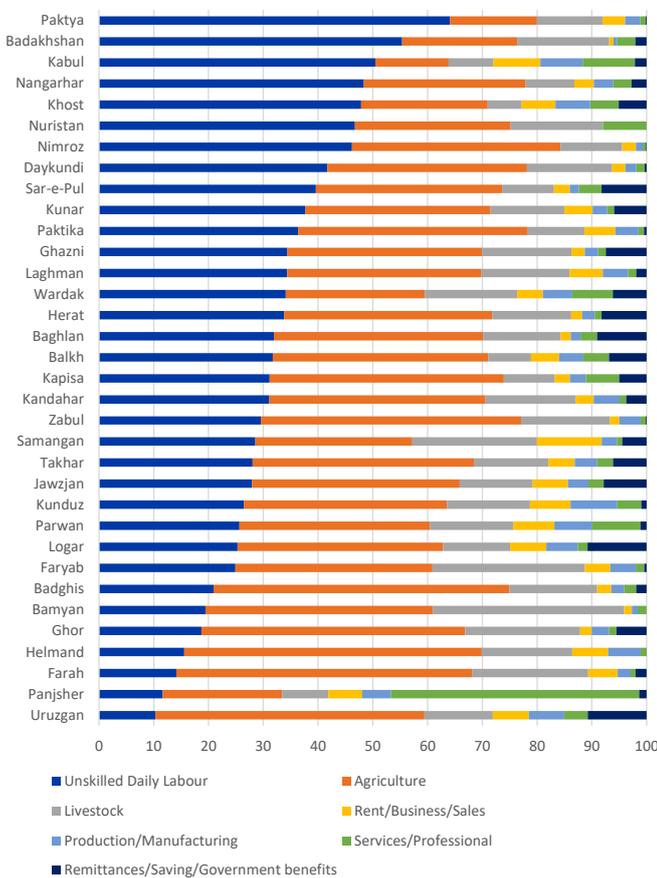
FINANCE + ASSETS

Highlighting Afghanistan’s reliance on its agricultural and informal sectors, less than 15% of the working population is employed in the industry or services economy. Over 70% of the population in Bamyan, Farah, Badghis, Ghor and Helmand rely on agriculture and livestock for a living and are extremely vulnerable to the 2021 drought in Afghanistan.

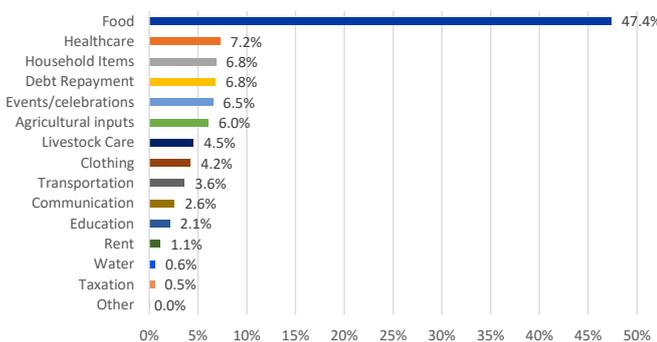
Average incomes are highest in Kunduz, Faryab, Panjsher, Logar and Kandahar, owing to their urban centres, access to cross-border trade, and inclusion in the informal economy. Expenses are highest in conflict-affected provinces like Khost, Wardak and Nuristan. The largest monthly income gap is in Wardak, followed by Nuristan. Almost half (47%) of households’ disposable income is spent on food purchases, scoring highest in remote provinces such as Panjsher (62%) and Badghis (61%), and lowest in urban Kabul (27%).

Over 2.4 million households are in debt, with average debt being AFN 38,017, or USD \$494 (exchange rate at time of data collection). Indebtedness is a major factor for migrant decision-making, both for internal displacement and cross-border migration. Average debt is highest in remote, predominantly rural provinces, such as Daykundi, Bamyan and Paktika, which are also amongst the most impoverished provinces in the country.

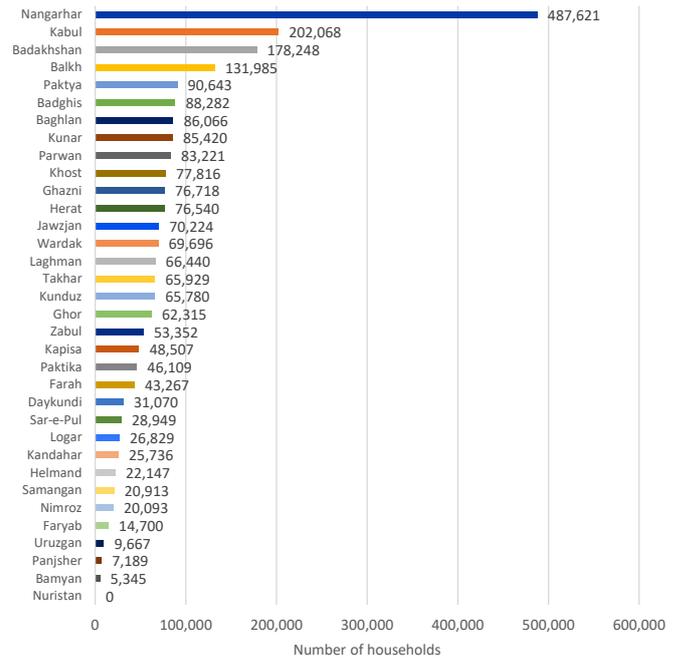
Income Sources | By province



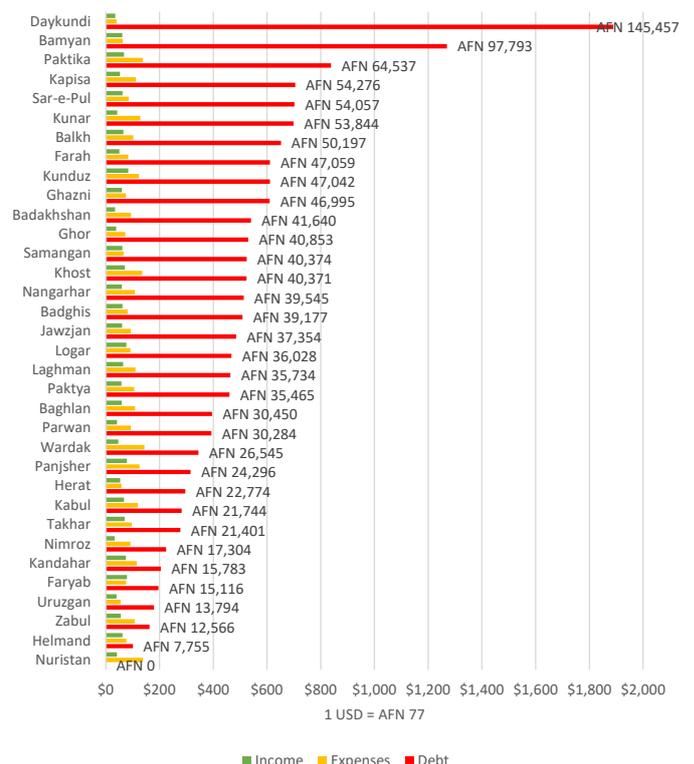
Average Household Expenditure | By category



Number of Indebted Households | By province



Average Monthly Household Income, Expenses & Total Debt | By province

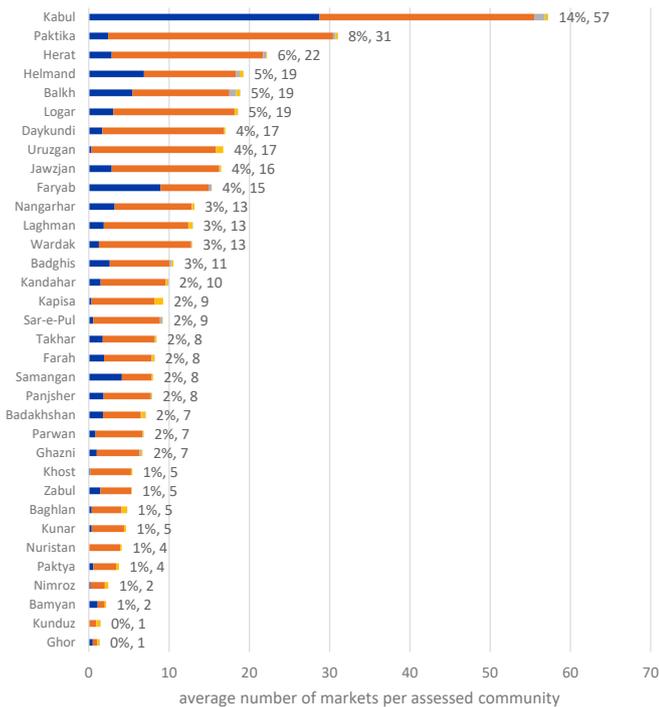


MARKETS

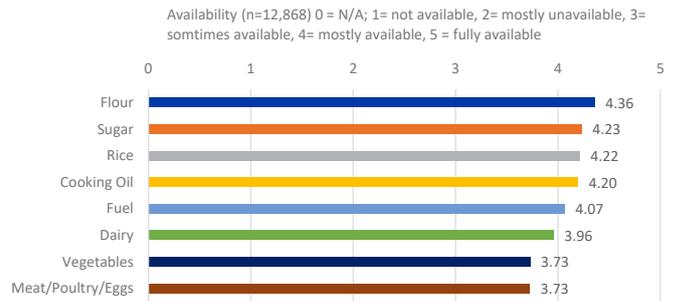
At the country-level, on average, communities have access to small stores and roadside carts. Between provinces, DTM found large disparities in access to markets. Kabul, Paktika, Herat and Helmand have the greatest access to markets, due to their proximity to major border crossings and urban centres. Access is lowest in remote provinces, such as Ghor, Kunduz, Bamyan, Nimroz, Paktya, Nuristan and Kunar. Women's access to markets is greatest in Panjsher, Sar-e-Pul, Faryab and Laghman and lowest in insecure and socially conservative Nuristan, Uruzgan and Paktika.

Flour, sugar, rice and cooking oil are generally available, whereas meat, poultry and eggs and vegetables are only sometimes available. Prices for rice increased 70%, while cooking oil and fuel increased 91% in most provinces during the 3 months prior to the assessment.

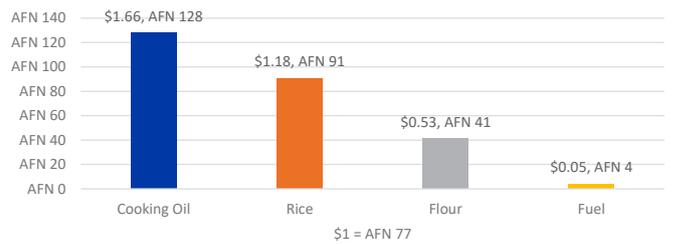
Availability of Markets | By province & type of market



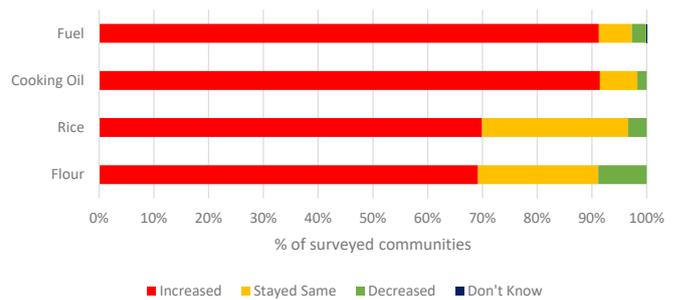
Availability of Commodities | Ranked by availability



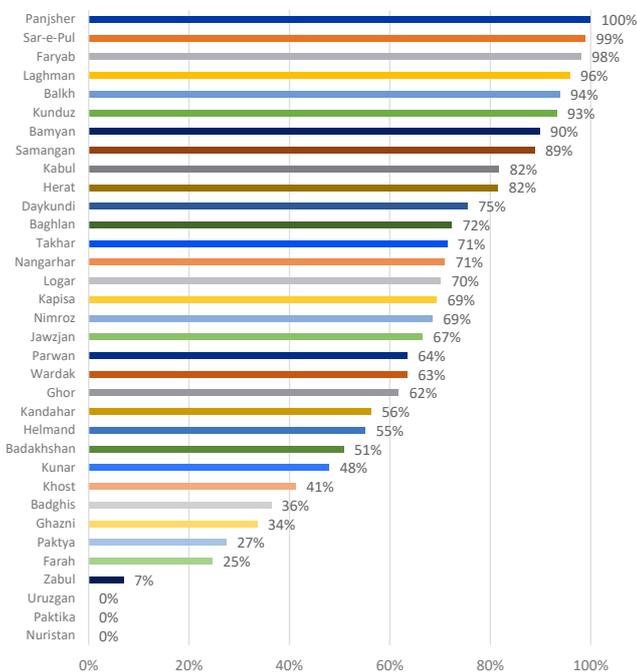
Commodity Prices Per Kilo/Liter



Price Fluctuation of Commodities During Past Three Months



Women's Access to Markets | By province

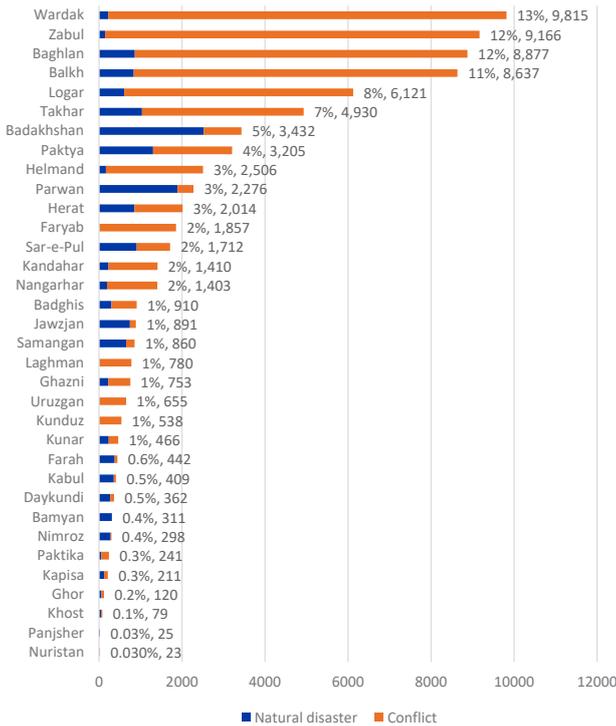


Small shops, like this one in Nimroz, are the main markets for many communities where people buy and sell goods. These shops cannot even fulfil basic needs. © IOM 2020

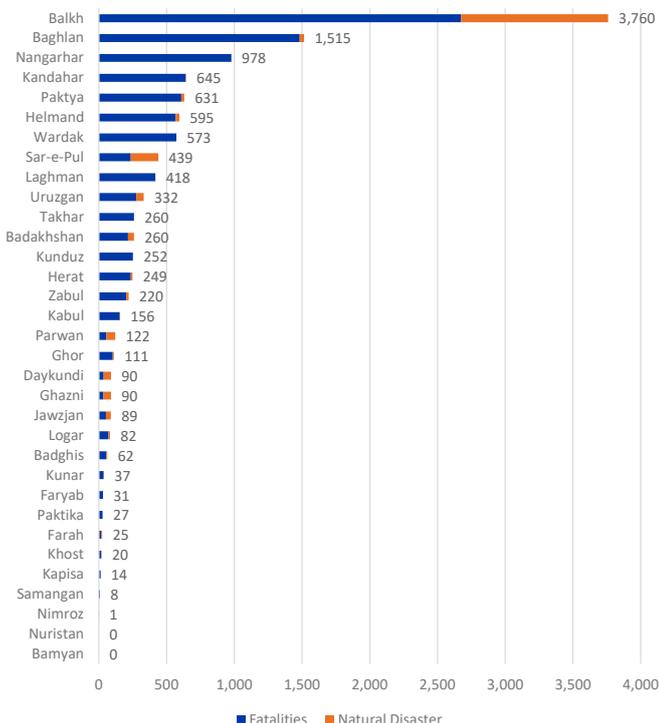
SAFETY + SECURITY

During the 6 months prior to this assessment, 79% of reported incidents, besides 85% of fatalities, happened due to conflict.. There has been a 7% increase in the number of reported incidents highlighting the continuing escalation of conflict happening throughout the country. Most of the security incidents occurred as armed conflict, followed by extortion and mines.

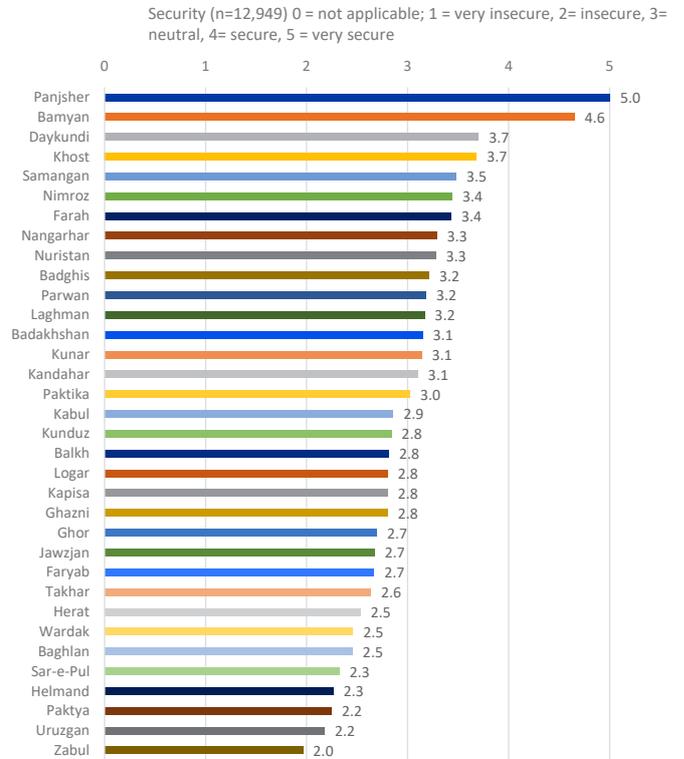
Natural Disaster and Security-related Incidents in Last 6 Months | By province



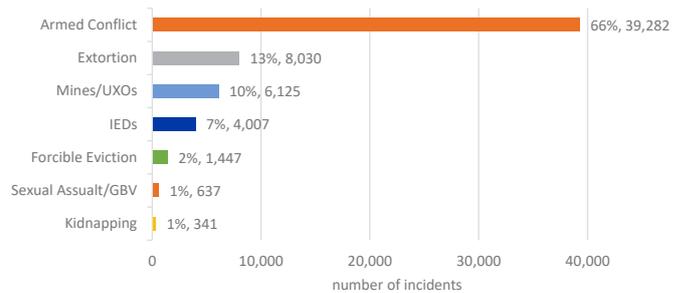
Natural Disaster and Security-related Fatalities in Last 6 Months | By province



Security Situation | Ranked by security



Security-related Incidents in Last 6 Months

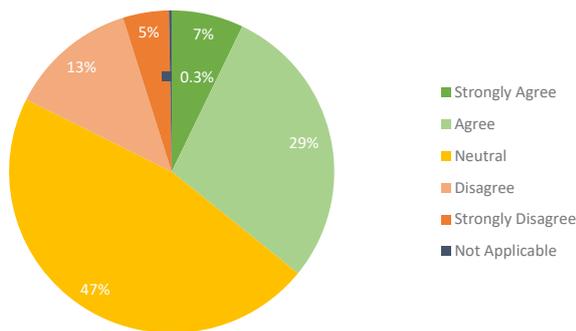


SOCIAL COHESION

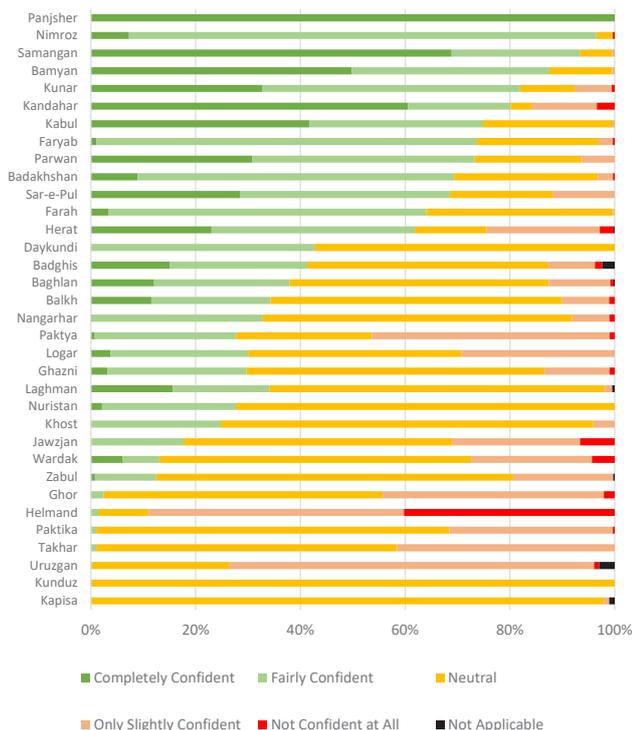
Only 43% of the interviewed community leaders feel confident in the formal justice system. Populations have the highest confidence in Panjsher (100%), followed by Nimroz (97%) and Samangan (93%). Provinces scoring lowest in terms of confidence are conflict-affected Kapisa (0%), Kunduz (0%), Uruzgan (0%), Takhar (1%) and Paktika (1%). One-third of all surveyed villages (36%) feel secure when engaging in outdoor activities, reducing people's mobility, ability to access services, and disproportionately affecting women.

Where inter-communal tensions exist (n=716), they exist mostly between IDPs, returnees and host community members, and herders and farmers. Tensions revolve around access to resources such as land, employment, agriculture or historical reasons. Sixty-five percent of key informants noted that where such tensions exist, these often lead to physical attacks. Inter-communal tensions are usually resolved through mediation from people of the community, by a court or between the families involved.

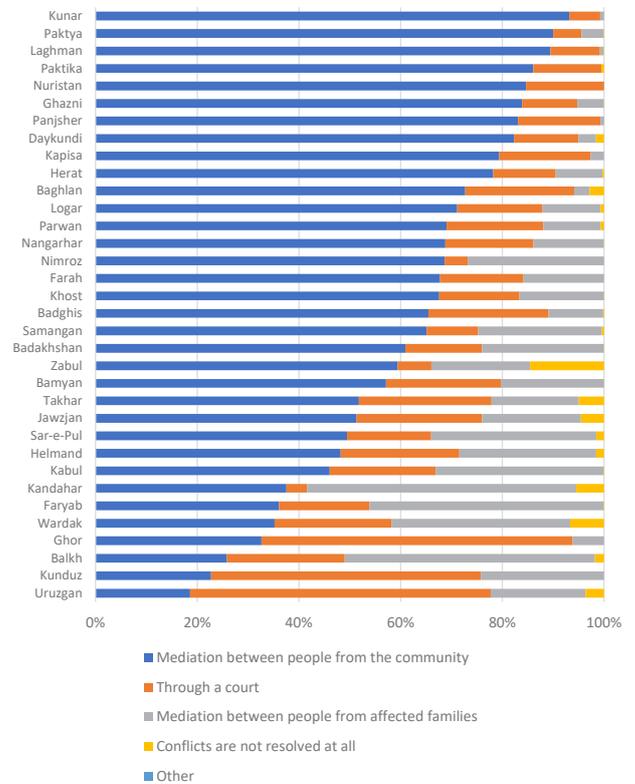
Feel secure in daily outdoor activities



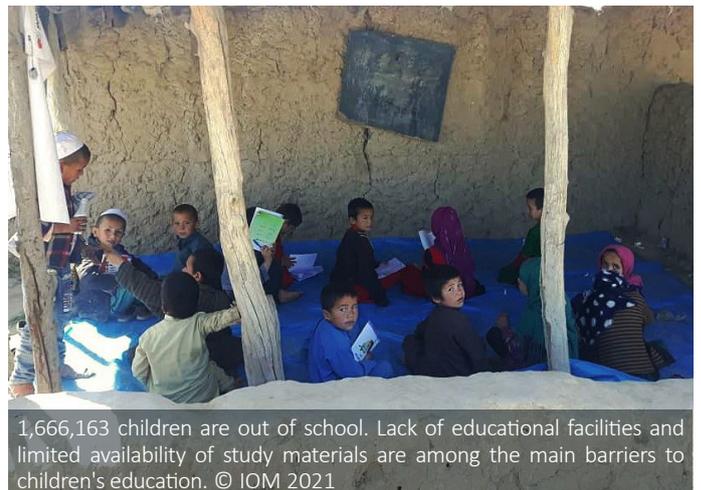
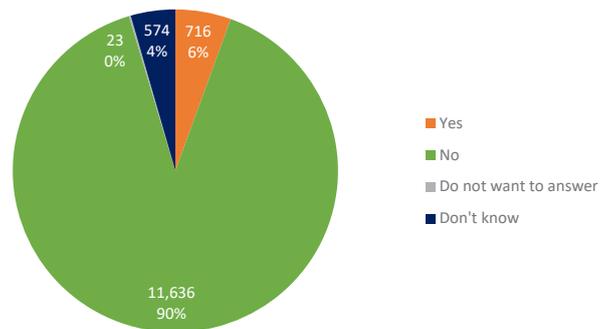
Confidence in the Justice System | By province



Conflict Mediation | By province



Mistrust between groups within communities | n=12,949



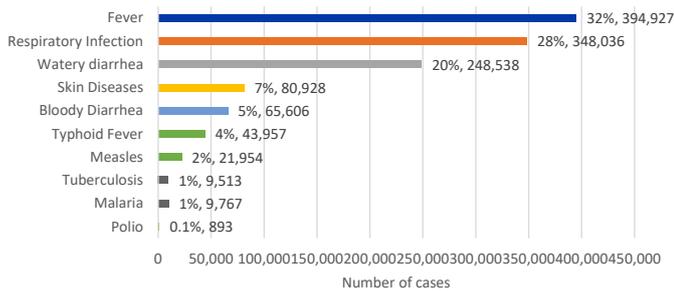
1,666,163 children are out of school. Lack of educational facilities and limited availability of study materials are among the main barriers to children's education. © IOM 2021

HEALTH

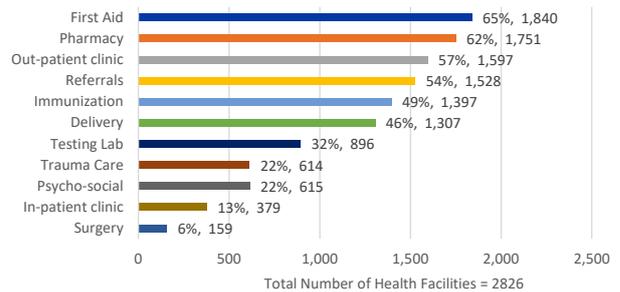
Symptoms similar to COVID-19, such as fever (32% of cases), respiratory infections (28%) and watery diarrhoea (20%) are widespread, highlighting the need for continued community-based infection prevention and control measures. The reported prevalence of respiratory infections has increased from 26% to 28%. Only 17% of all surveyed communities have a health clinic located within the confines of their settlement, but with significant disparities between provinces. In Kandahar, where the closest health centre is on average 28 kilometres away, accessing essential healthcare is considered extremely difficult.

Over half of all health service providers offer first aid, pharmaceutical services, out-patient, referrals and immunisation services. However, 20% of the surveyed populations do not visit their closest health clinics when they are ill, rising to more than one in three persons in Parwan, Kunar, Kandahar, Sar-e-Pul, Paktya, Helmand, Kunduz and Uruzgan, mostly due to poor quality medicine, services, distance and staff. A lack of female staff remains a major obstacle to accessing health services for women.

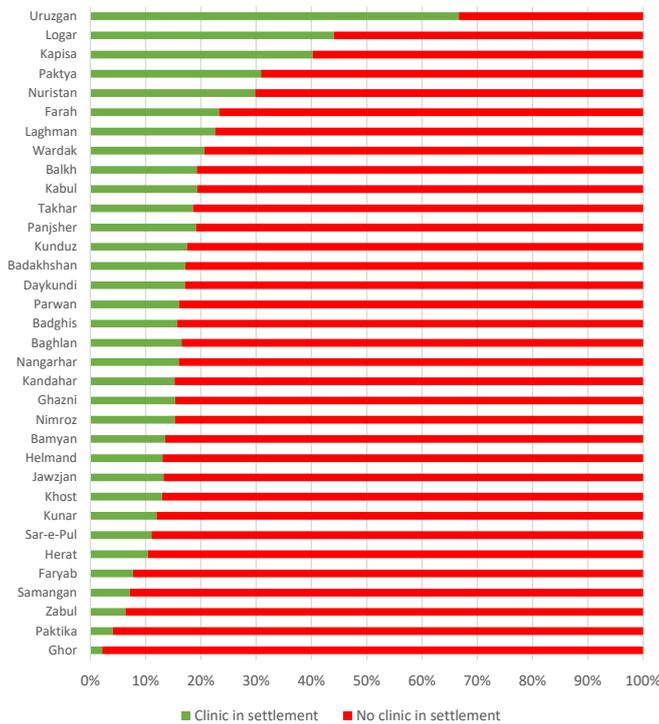
Diseases & Health Conditions



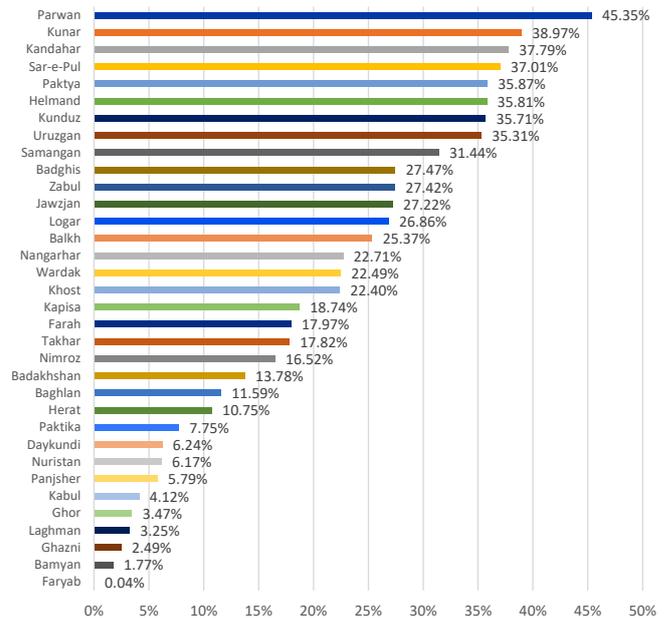
Services Offered at Health Facilities | By type of services



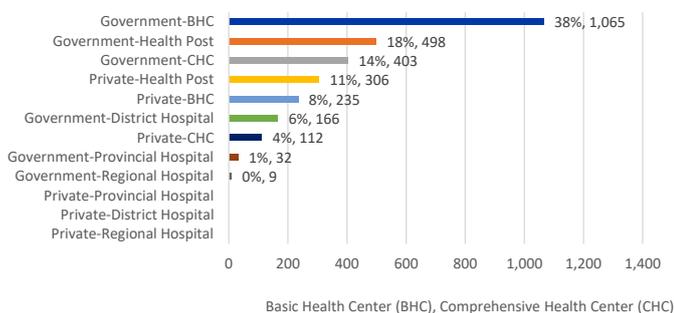
Access to Clinics | By province



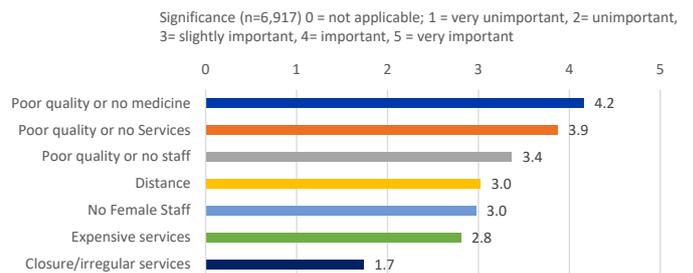
Population Not Using Nearest Health Facility | By province



Number & Types of Health Facilities



Reasons for Not Using Nearest Health Facility | By significance

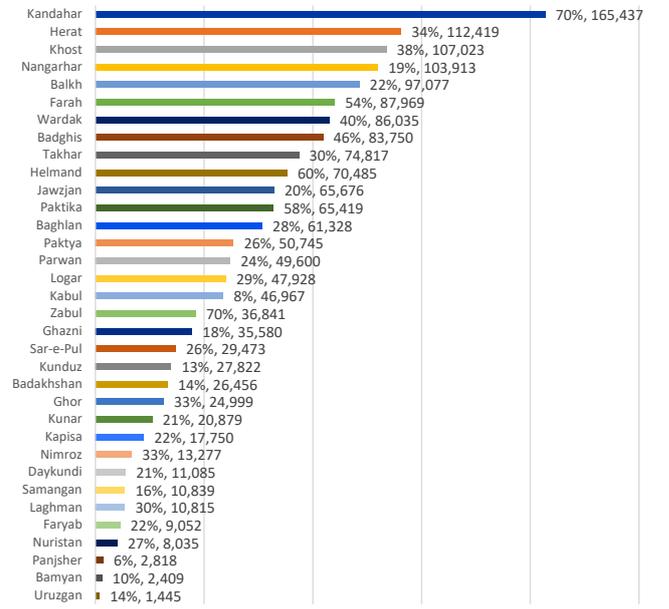


EDUCATION

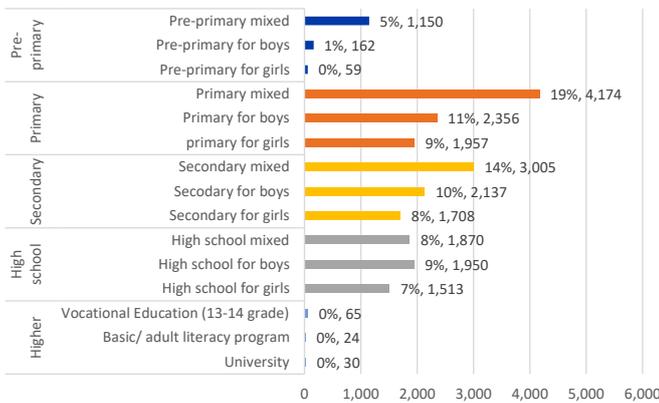
Similar to health facility access, wide disparities between provinces exist in the availability of schools. While more populous, urbanised environs are more likely to have education facilities, their higher population density results in a higher number of potential students per education facility. Kabul has, on average, one school for every 2,694 school-aged children, whereas Nimroz and Panjsher have the best coverage with one school per every 393 and 407 children, respectively. The highest numbers of out-of-school children are found in Kandahar, Herat and Khost.

The type of schools, especially at higher education levels, such as vocational training, literacy programs and universities, is highly skewed towards urban areas, Kabul in particular. Highlighting the lack in demand for education from poor families, as well as limited supply of education facilities, supplies and teachers, the top barriers to education are children having to work to support their families and the distance to schools.

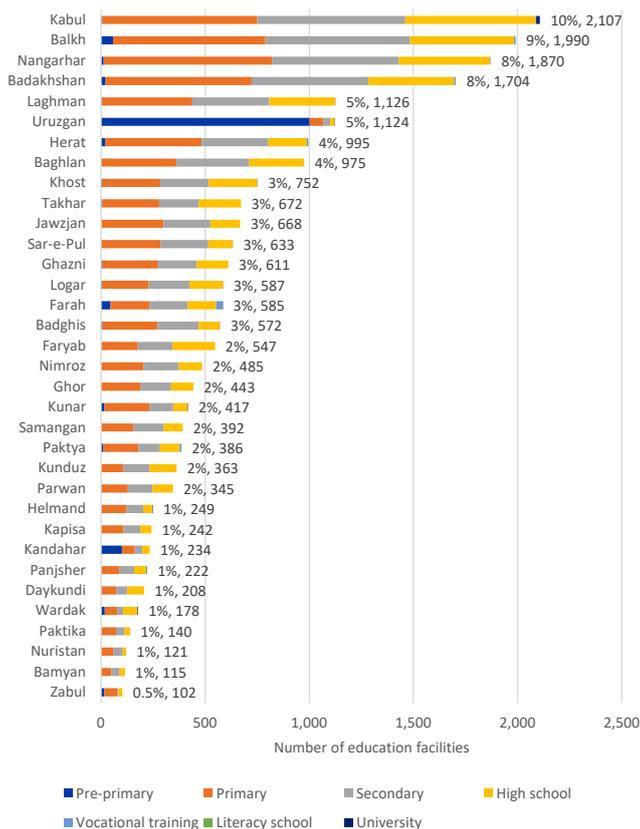
Number of Out-of-School Children | By province



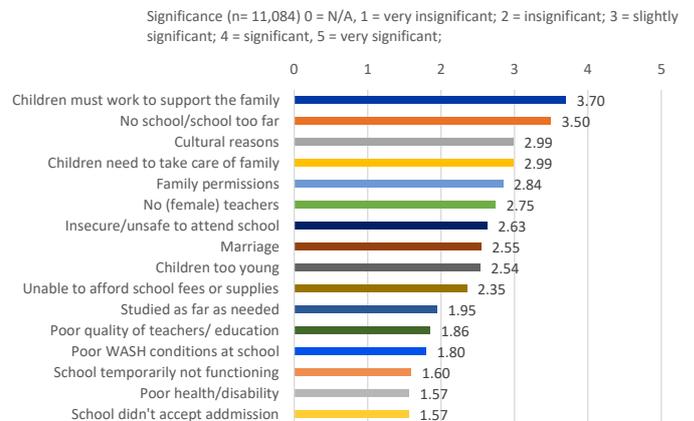
Types of Education Facilities Available



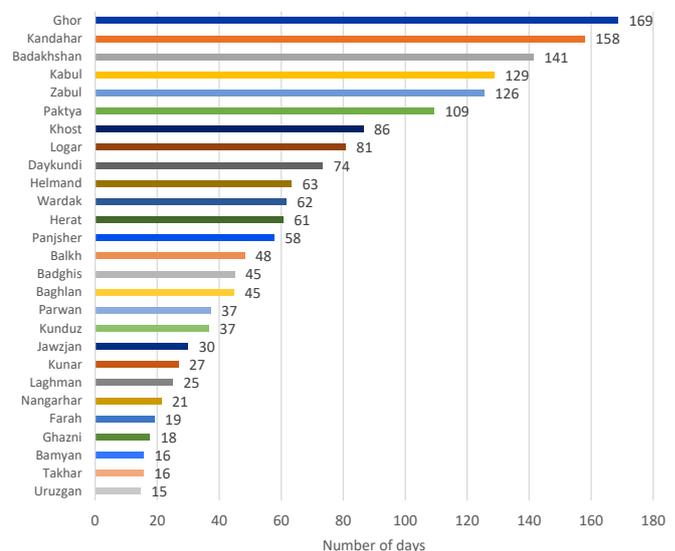
Types of Education Facilities | By province



Barriers to Education | Ranked by significance



Average number of days schools remained closed/ destroyed/ occupied in the last 6 months | n= 1,623



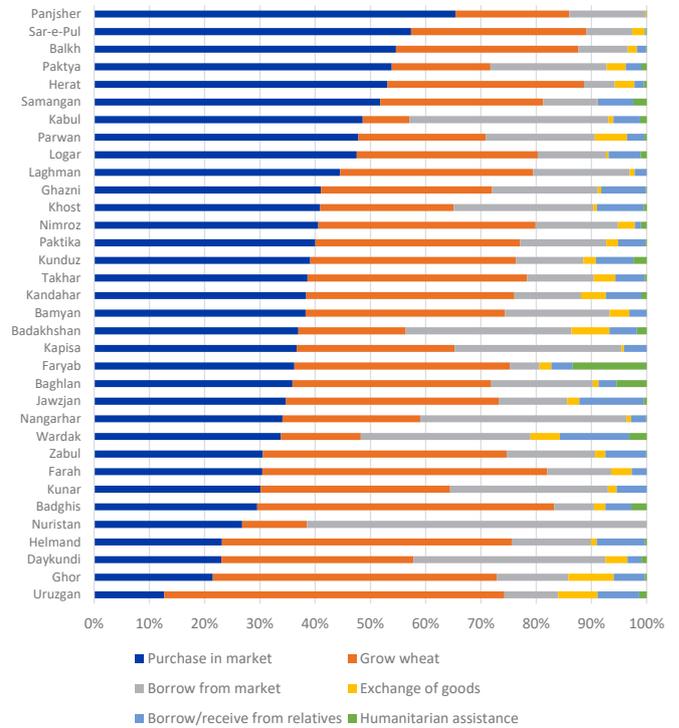
FOOD + NUTRITION

Afghanistan's vulnerability to conflict and natural disasters frequently leads to high levels of food insecurity. As a result of overall food scarcity in the country, the diversity of food intake by families in Afghanistan is limited. Cereals, oil/butter and sugars are consumed daily. Meat and fruits, important sources of protein and micro-nutrients, are consumed less than once per week. Vegetables are consumed less than twice per week.

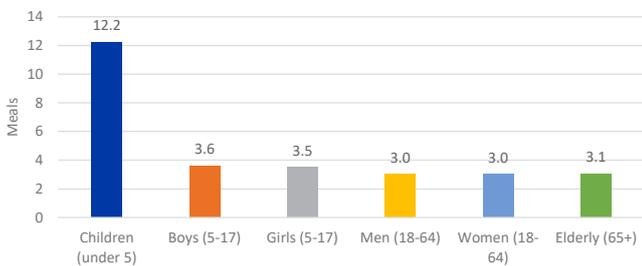
Wheat, the prime ingredient for the staple food, bread, is mostly purchased in local markets (40%), or grown (32%). The province most dependent on growing its own wheat is Uruzgan, followed by Badghis, Helmand, Farah and Ghor, which are all prone to seasonal droughts and flooding. A lack of agricultural inputs, such as seeds, chemicals, land, equipment and water, as well as other factors like poverty and conflict, constrain food production, especially in Farah, Parwan, Uruzgan, Balkh, Zabul, Wardak and Samangan.

As a result of food scarcity, families continue to rely on a variety of coping mechanisms. The most common coping mechanism is relying on less preferred foods. Borrowing for food is most commonplace in Nuristan, Laghman and Nimroz. Skipping entire meals, the most severe coping mechanism recorded, is relied upon most by households in Takhar, Jawzjan, Samangan and Baghlan.

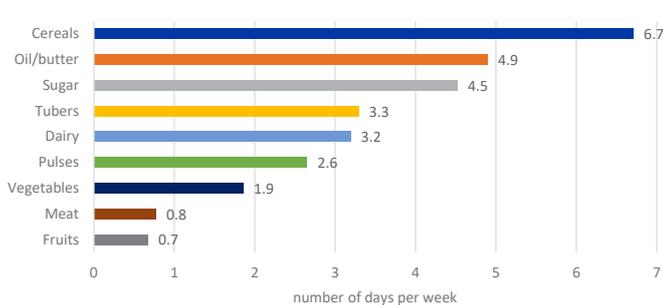
Obtaining Wheat/Flour/Bread | By province



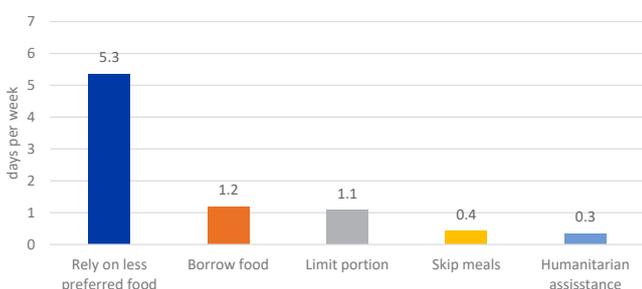
Number of Meals Eaten Daily | By age & gender group



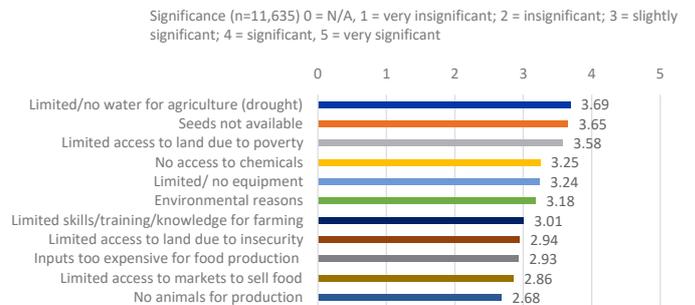
Food Diversity | By frequency eaten per week



Food-related Coping Mechanisms



Constraints to Food Production | Ranked by significance



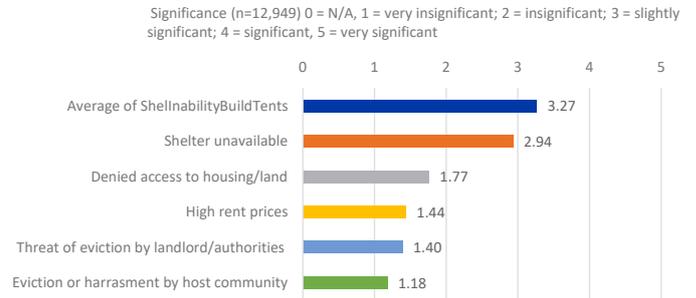
SHELTER

Eighty-four percent of the households live in mud housing, which is often unable to withstand natural disasters. Less than 1% of the population, mostly IDPs, live in either tents or the open air. These are often in conflict-affected provinces like Kandahar, Uruzgan or Badghis, where respectively 4%, 3% and 2% of households live in tents or the open air.

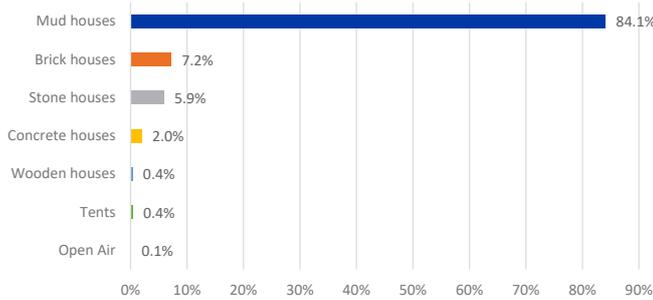
A significant number of households in Parwan (38%), Sar-e-Pul (38%), Wardak (36%) and Uruzgan (25%) - provinces that have been heavily affected by natural disaster and conflict - live in shelters that are either severely damaged or destroyed.

Besides damaged housing, high rents lead to families living in sub-par shelters. Two-thirds (66%) of households living in Parwan, 58% in Ghazni, 57% in Wardak, and 49% in Logar could not afford rent during the past 6 months.

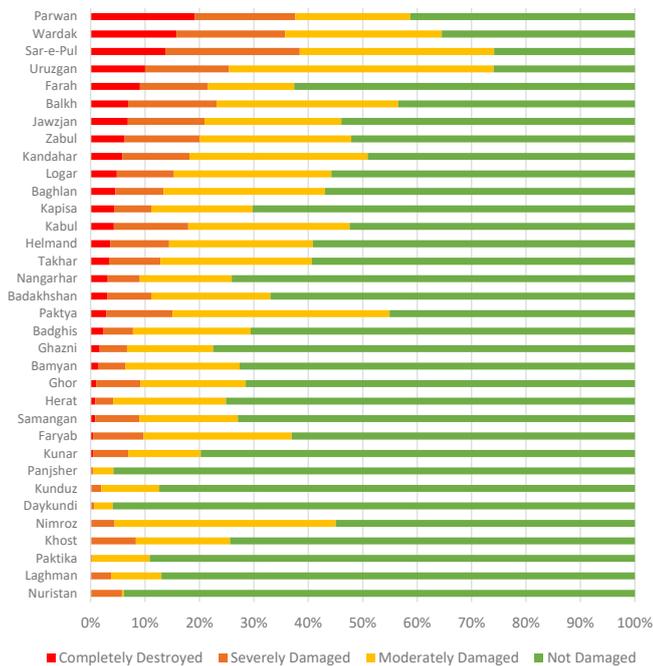
Barriers to Accessing Housing | Ranked by significance



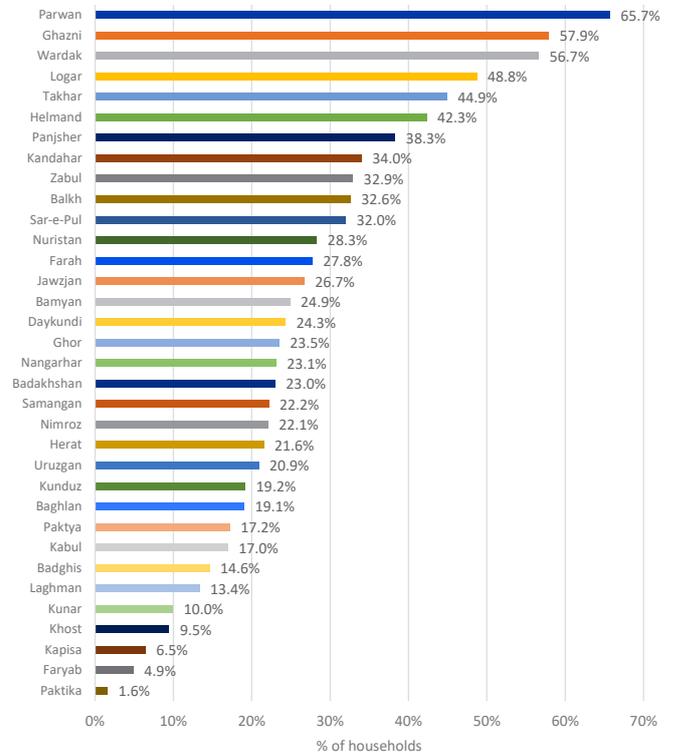
Type of Shelter/Housing | By community usage



Shelter Conditions | By level of damage and province



Households Unable to Afford Rent in the Last 6 Months | By province | n=2,344



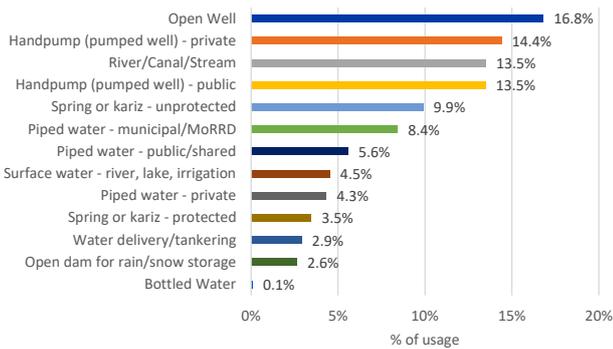
Over 37% of housing in Parwan, Sar-e-Pul and Wardak are either severely damaged or completely destroyed and the residents have been forced to displace to other areas and live like these families in Badghis under very poor living conditions in tents. © IOM 2021

WASH

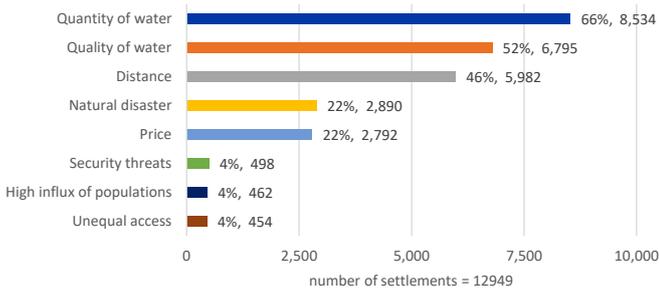
More than 45% of all households reported a shortage of drinking water and water for agriculture. Daykundi has the most acute need for drinking water, where 86% of the population has insufficient access to drinking water. Daykundi is most affected by shortages in overall water supply for drinking, agriculture and livestock, followed by Nimroz, Samangan and Farah, where communities noted multiple, overlapping water needs.

Three-fourths (74%) of the population lacks access to safe latrine facilities, with Nuristan (100%), Parwan (99%) and Khost (97%) scoring highest in terms of sanitation needs. Over 1 in 4 practice open defecation. Of those with access to WASH facilities, more than half use a pit latrine.

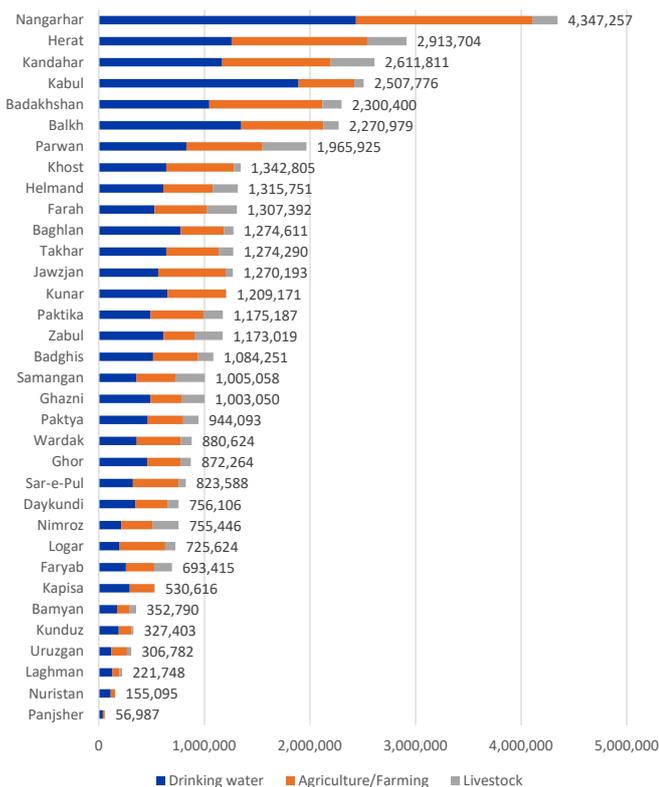
Drinking Water Sources | By usage



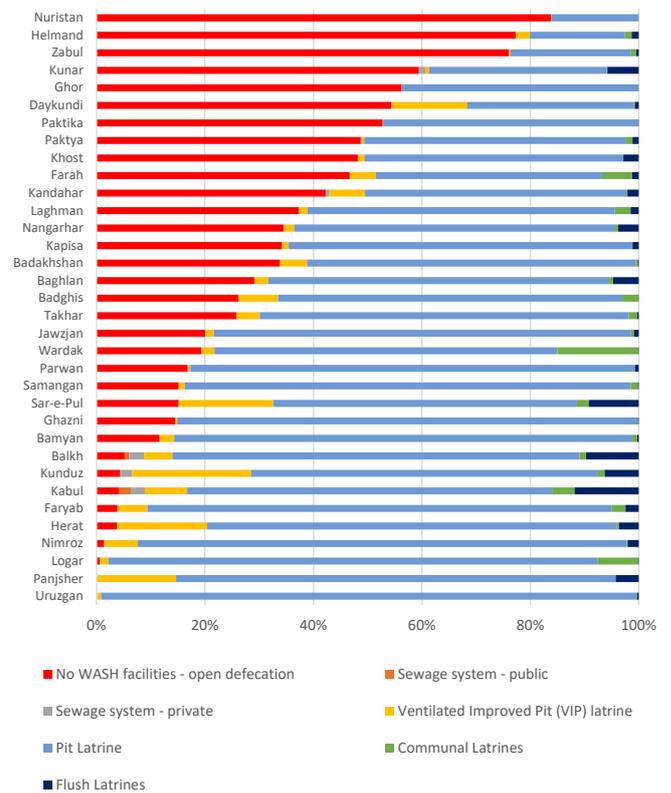
Water-related Problems | By number of settlements



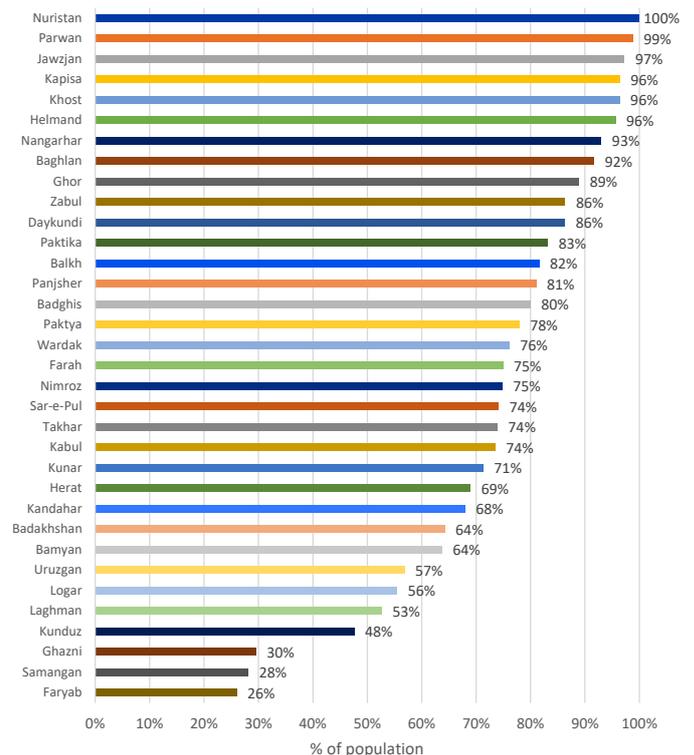
Population in Need of Water Sources | By province



Types of Latrines | By Province



Households Without Access to Safe Latrines | Ranked by province

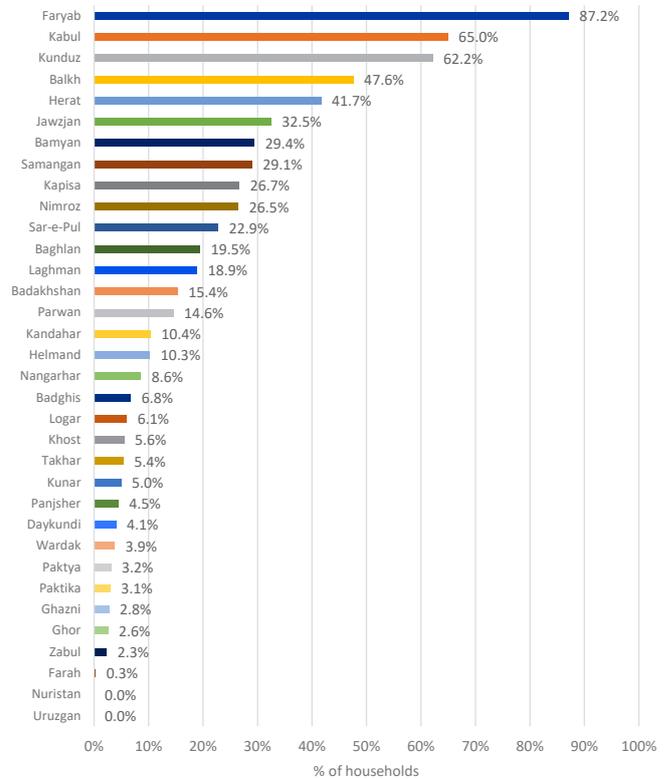


UTILITIES

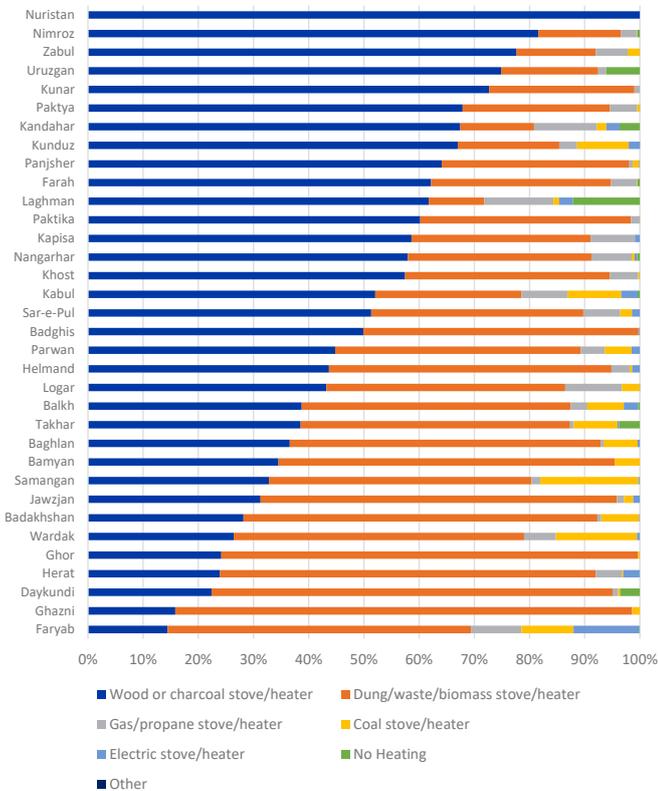
Nine out of 10 (90%) of households report using wood/charcoal or dung/waste or biomass as a source for heating. While only 20% of households have access to national or regional electricity grids, 8% of households use shared solar power in their communities, mostly in Daykundi (99%), Paktika (98%) and Ghazni (96%), and Panjsher (95%). Assessed settlements reported, on average, electricity shortages for 12 days per month lasting more than one hour per day.

While 70% of households have a mobile phone, 27% report not having signal or service in their settlements. Nuristan has the worst connectivity, with 77% of households receiving no signal and 0% having access to the internet.

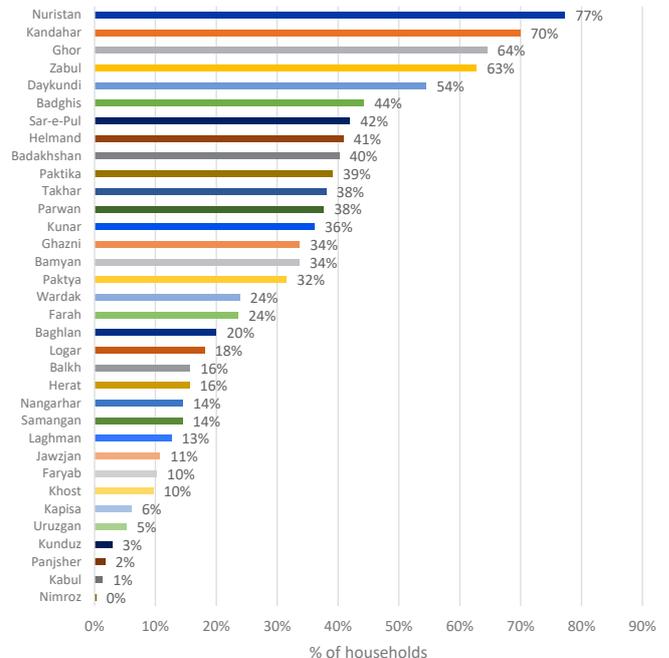
Access to Public Electricity | By household usage



Heating Sources | By province and household usage



Households Without Phone Signal | By Province

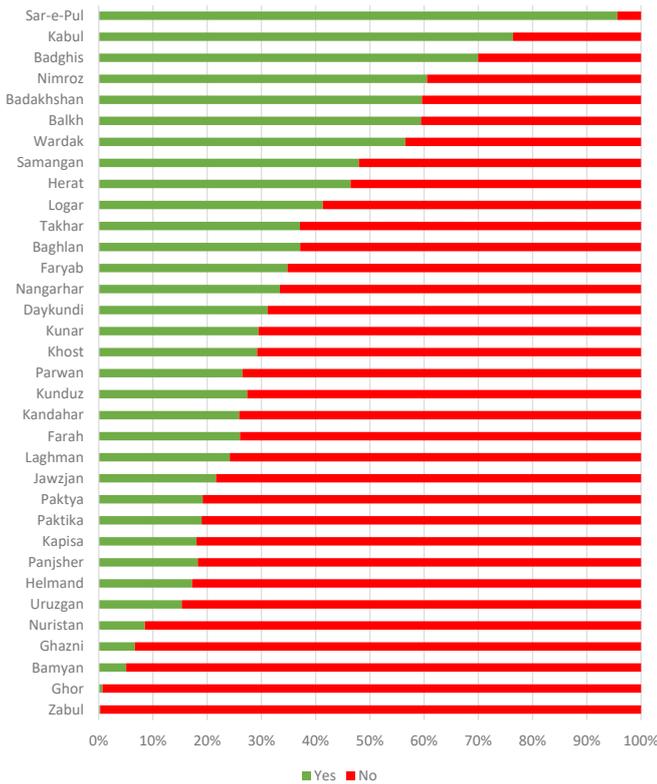


Animal dung is mostly used as a heating source in rural areas, like this community in Faryab. It accounts for 44% of all heating sources used nationwide. © IOM 2021

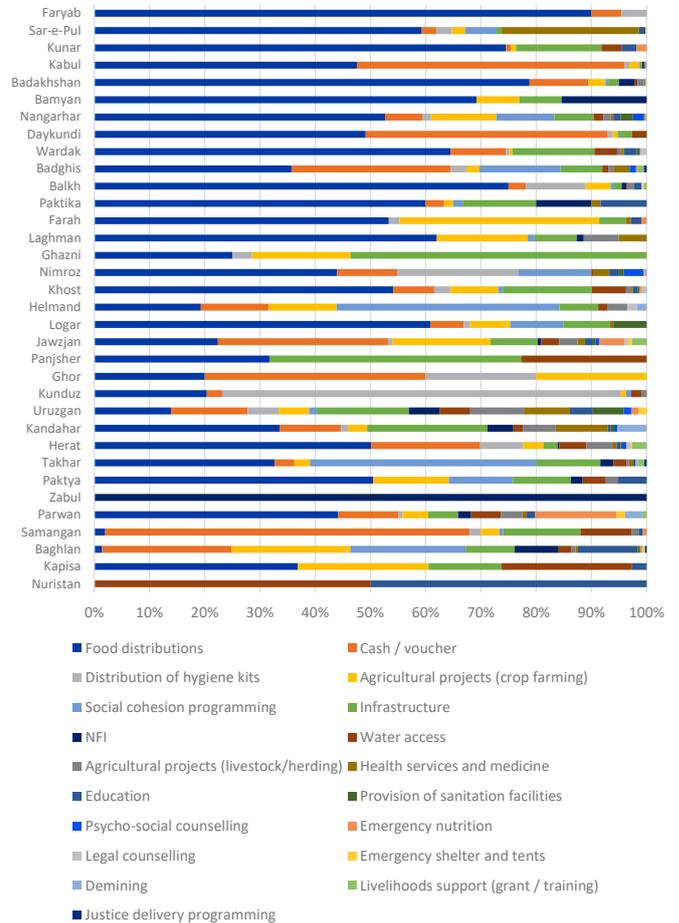
ASSISTANCE

Over two-thirds (36%) of the assessed villages indicated having received assistance during the six months prior to assessment, similar to 35% during the previous round. Assistance most frequently came in the form of food distributions (48%), cash/voucher (16%), social cohesion programming (7%), infrastructure (6%) and agriculture projects (6%). In Zabul, Ghor, Bamyan, Ghazni and Nuristan over 90% of communities reportedly received no assistance.

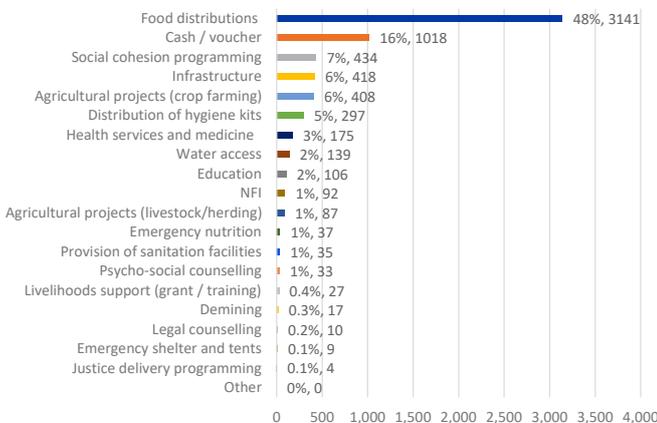
Humanitarian/Development Assistance | By Province



Type of Assistance Provided Over the Last 6 Months | By province



Type of Assistance Provided Over the Last 6 Months

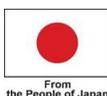


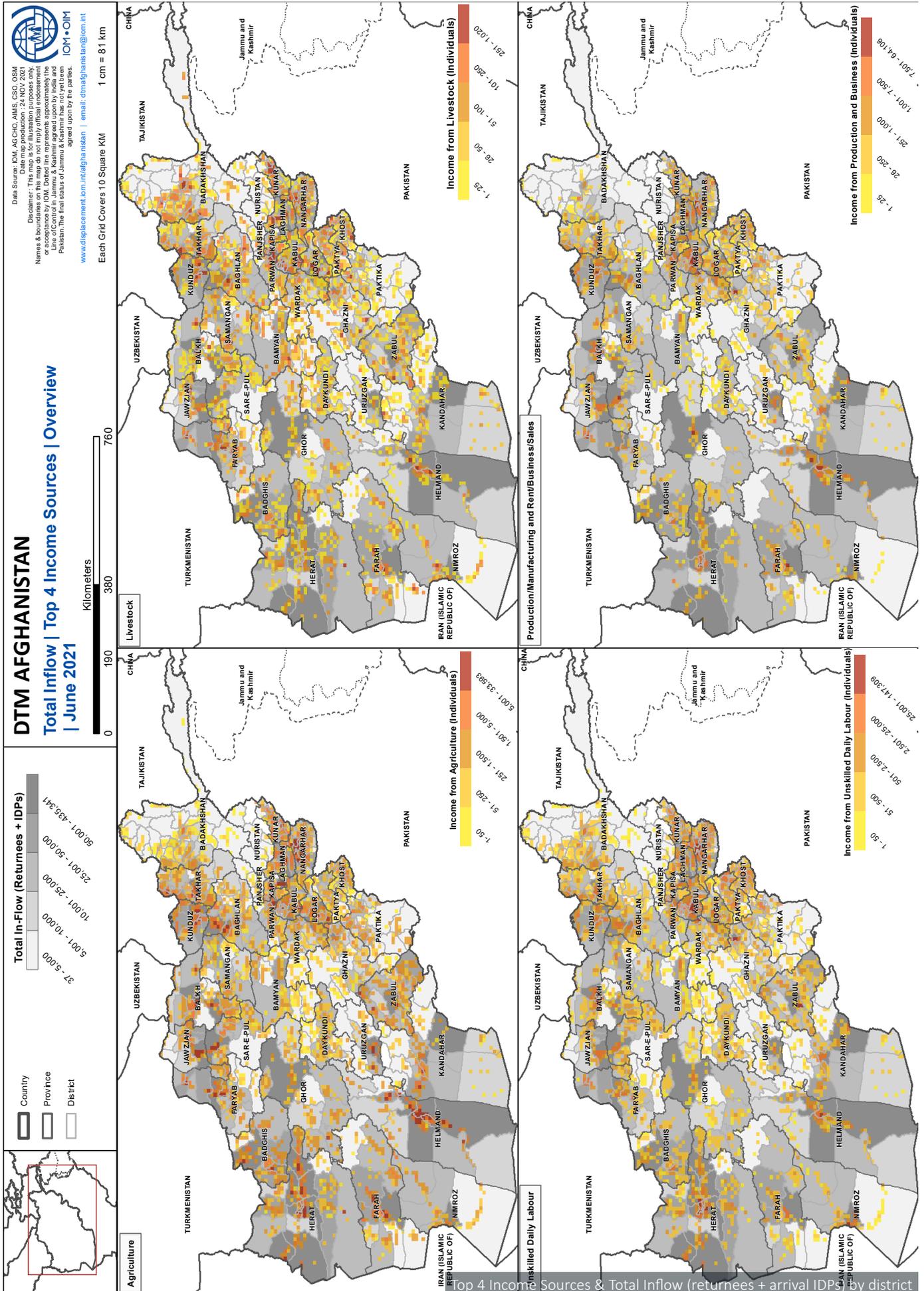
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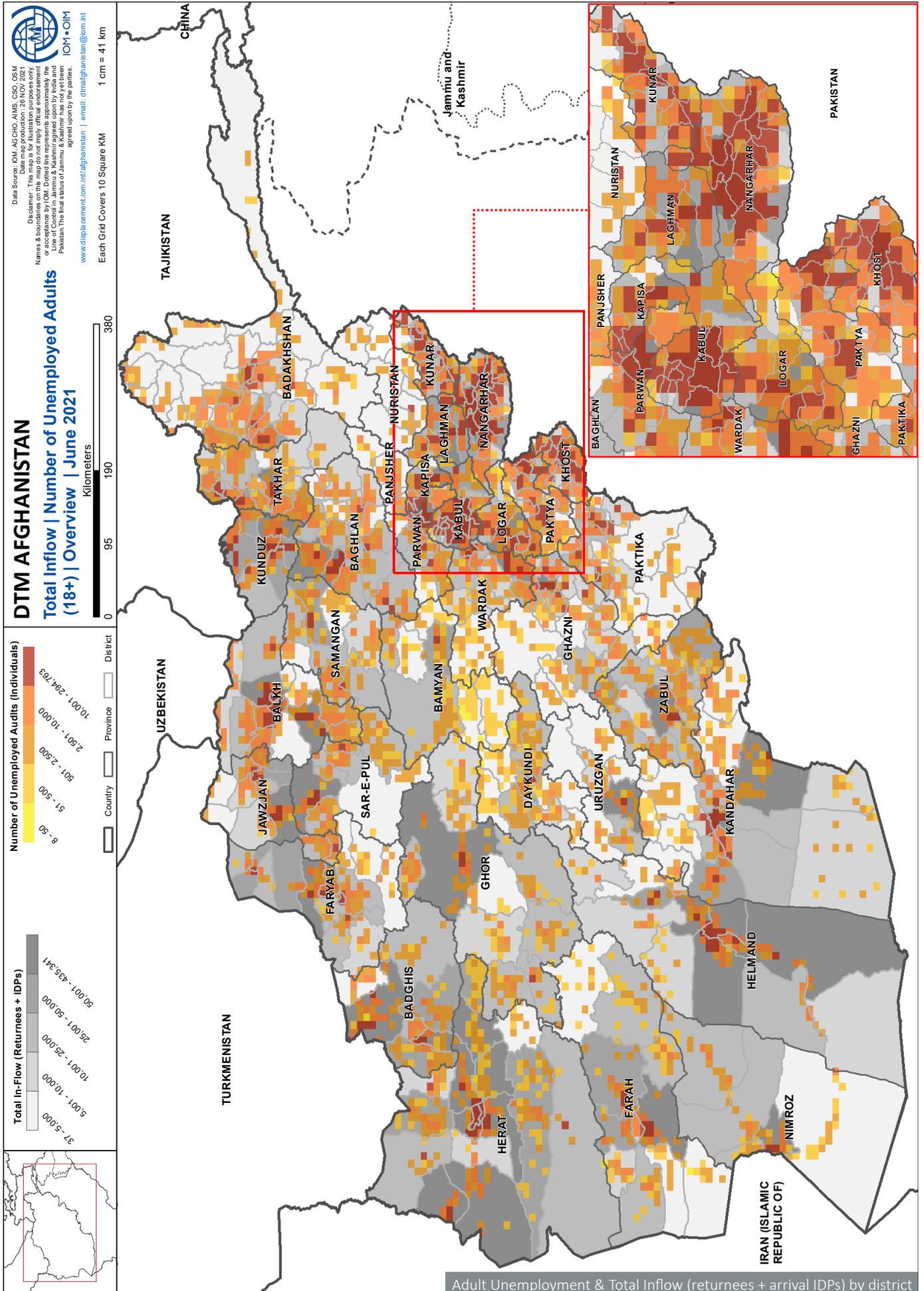
Please visit www.displacement.iom.int/afghanistan for more information, including maps, datasets and dashboards.

CONTACT US

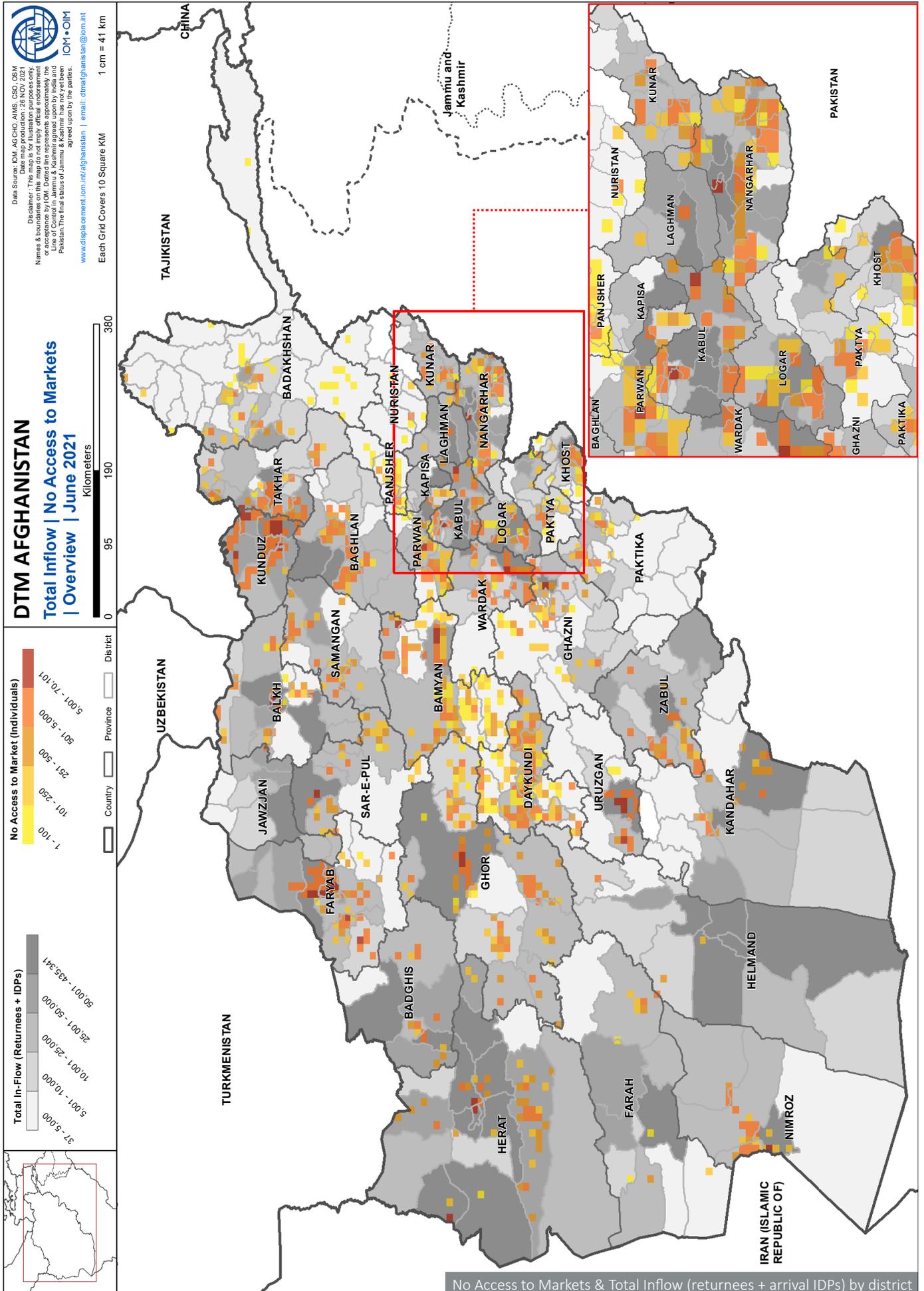
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Adult Unemployment & Total Inflow (returnees + arrival IDPs) by district



No Access to Markets & Total Inflow (returnees + arrival IDPs) by district

