

ES/NFI - Rapid Assessment Mechanism

Analysis from Round 1 and Round 2

May, 2023
Afghanistan

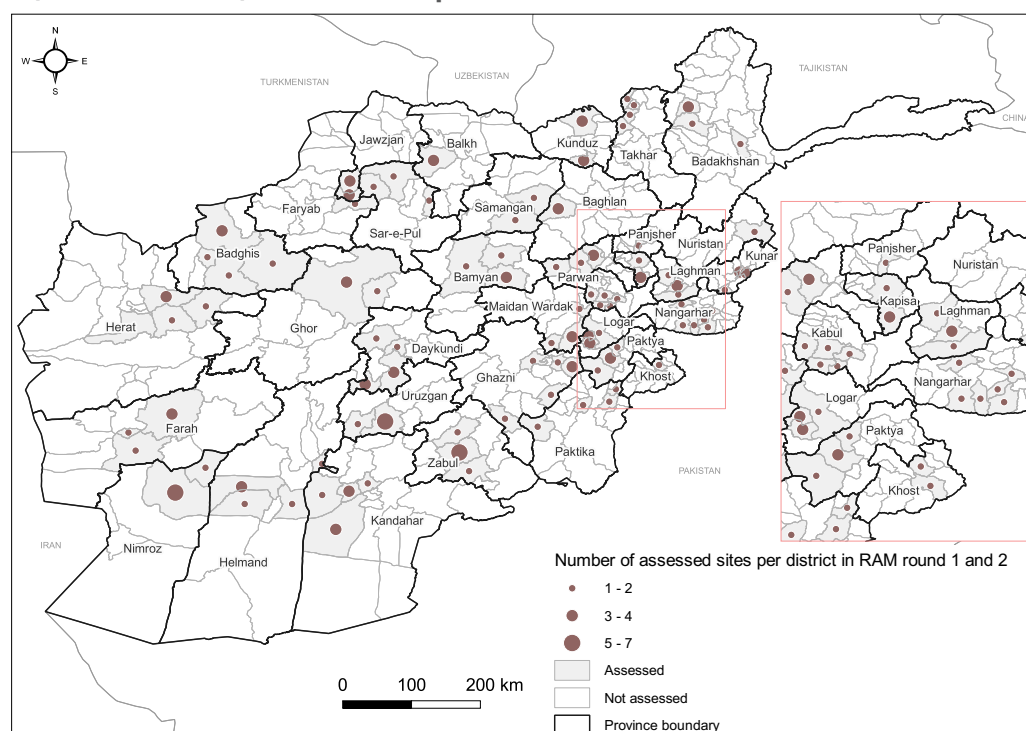
KEY MESSAGES

- **Overall, shelter needs seem to be predominantly driven by underlying economic capacities and sudden onset shocks, which if unaddressed may turn into more chronic conditions** with specific implications on health, WASH, and protection needs.
- **A majority (84%) of all the surveyed households reported that they were unable to repair their shelter because of financial barriers** such as shelter repair materials being too expensive (68%), or repairs requiring professional services being unaffordable (62%).
- **Households appear to be poorly equipped for winter**, as 81% reported not having sufficient winter clothes and 77% reported not having enough heating devices.
- **Amidst continuous drought conditions, about one-third of households (31%) reported that they do not have access to enough water for drinking and cooking.** Among those, 78% reported not having enough water storage containers and 48% reported that their primary water source was more than 500 meters away.
- **About one-third of the households (35%) reported that they had been feeling unsafe in their shelter due to poor structures (74%) and the exposure to climate events (62%),** indicating conditions that can quickly exacerbate shelter needs in the event of a sudden onset shock.

CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Following over 40 years of conflict and the change in authorities in August 2021, Afghanistan remains one of the most vulnerable countries affected by a large-scale economic crisis and climate-related shocks. According to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023, 28.3 million people need humanitarian assistance with 9.7 million need Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) assistance.¹ In 2022, REACH and the ES/NFI cluster jointly developed the Rapid Assessment Mechanism (RAM) with the aim to provide a structured and standardized approach to identify and prioritize the population most in need of ES/NFI assistance as well as to inform funding allocations of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF). REACH conducted a joint analysis of the two nationwide rounds of RAM data collection completed in March and November 2022 to highlight key findings on four main themes and support strategic decision-making: Shelter Conditions; NFIs and Services; Economic Factors; and Risks.

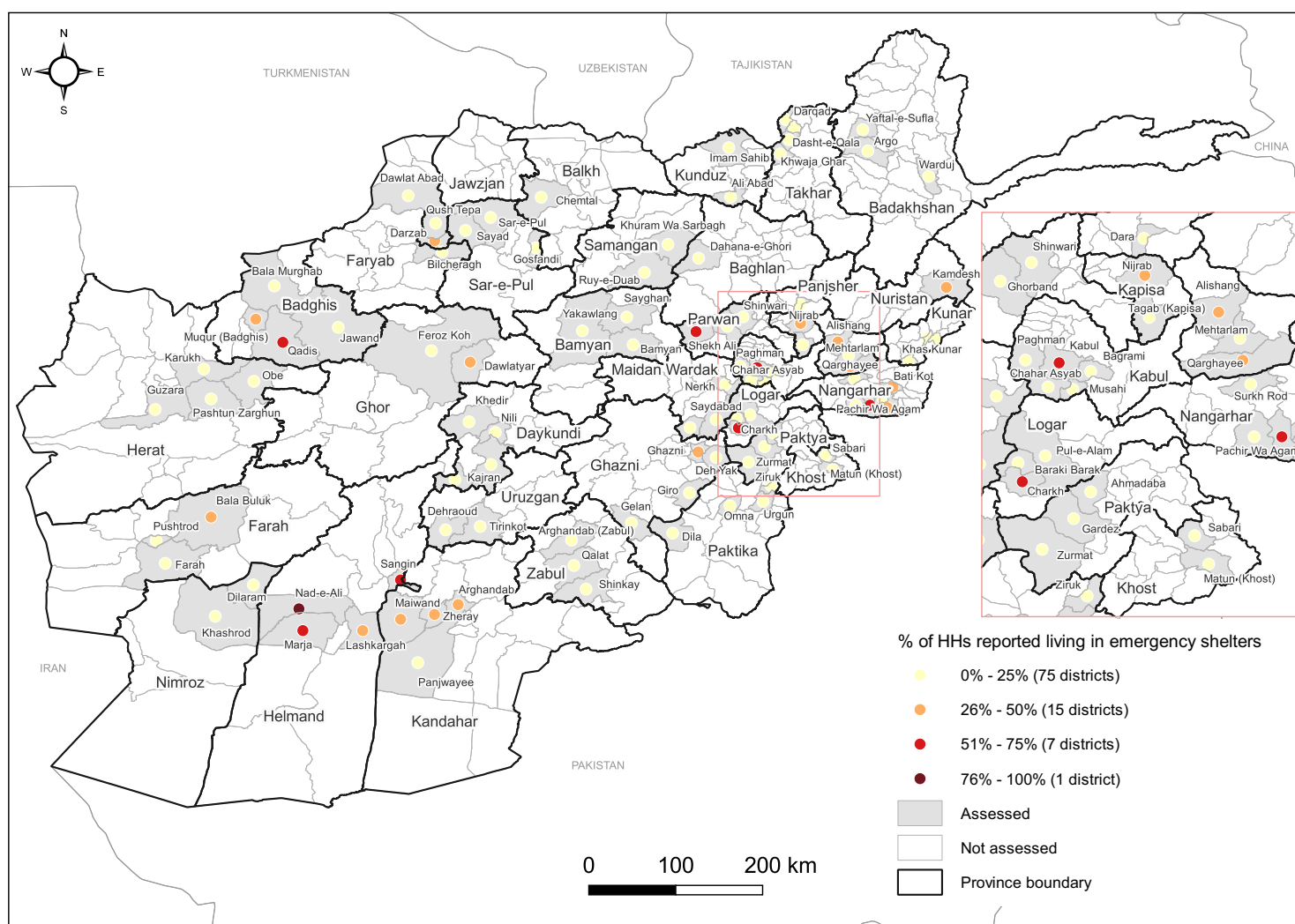
Map 1: Rapid Assessment Mechanism round 1 (March 2022) and round 2 (November 2022) assessed sites per district



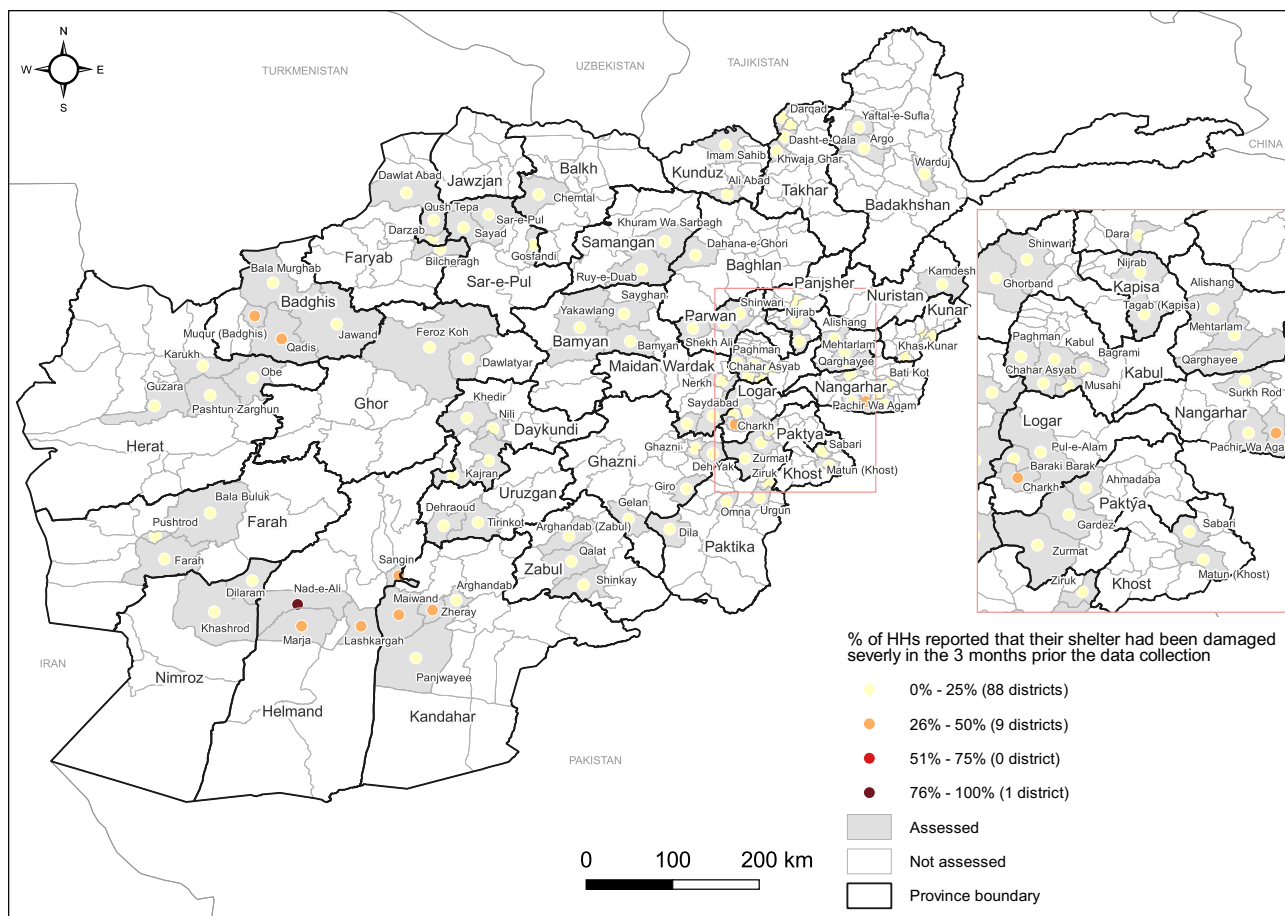
Shelter Condition:

- A considerable share of households (38%) reported that their shelter had been either moderately damaged (24%), severely damaged (12%), or completely destroyed (2%) in the three months prior to data collection.^{2,3} The main reported reason causing the shelter damage were sudden onset shocks such as natural disasters (61%) and violence (11%) or a quality of shelter materials (28%).
- One in every six households (14%) also reported living in emergency shelters such as makeshift, severely damaged, or unfinished shelters.⁴ In many cases, districts reporting higher shares of emergency shelters overlap with the areas reporting a higher prevalence of recent shelter damage, indicating that the same sudden onset shock may have caused different levels of shelter impact across the population (see Map 1 and Map 2).
- There are also numerous districts, particularly in the Central and Eastern Region such as Shekh Ali, Chahar Asyab, Charkh, and Pachir Wa Agam with high shares of households (HHs) living in emergency shelters while few reported recent damages to their shelters. This suggests more chronic shelter conditions potentially caused by a continuous deterioration of the shelter quality.
- A majority (84%) of all the surveyed households reported that they were unable to repair their shelter (see Map 3). The primary reasons were financial barriers of shelter and repair materials being too expensive (68%), or repairs requiring professional services being unaffordable (62%).⁵
- Overall, shelter needs seem to be predominantly driven by underlying economic capacities and sudden onset shocks, which if unaddressed may turn into more chronic conditions with specific implications on health, WASH and protection needs. Both shelter improvements to withstand shocks in areas highly affected by climate events and rapid emergency responses through cash or in-kind shelter support are needed to address the shelter needs across Afghanistan.

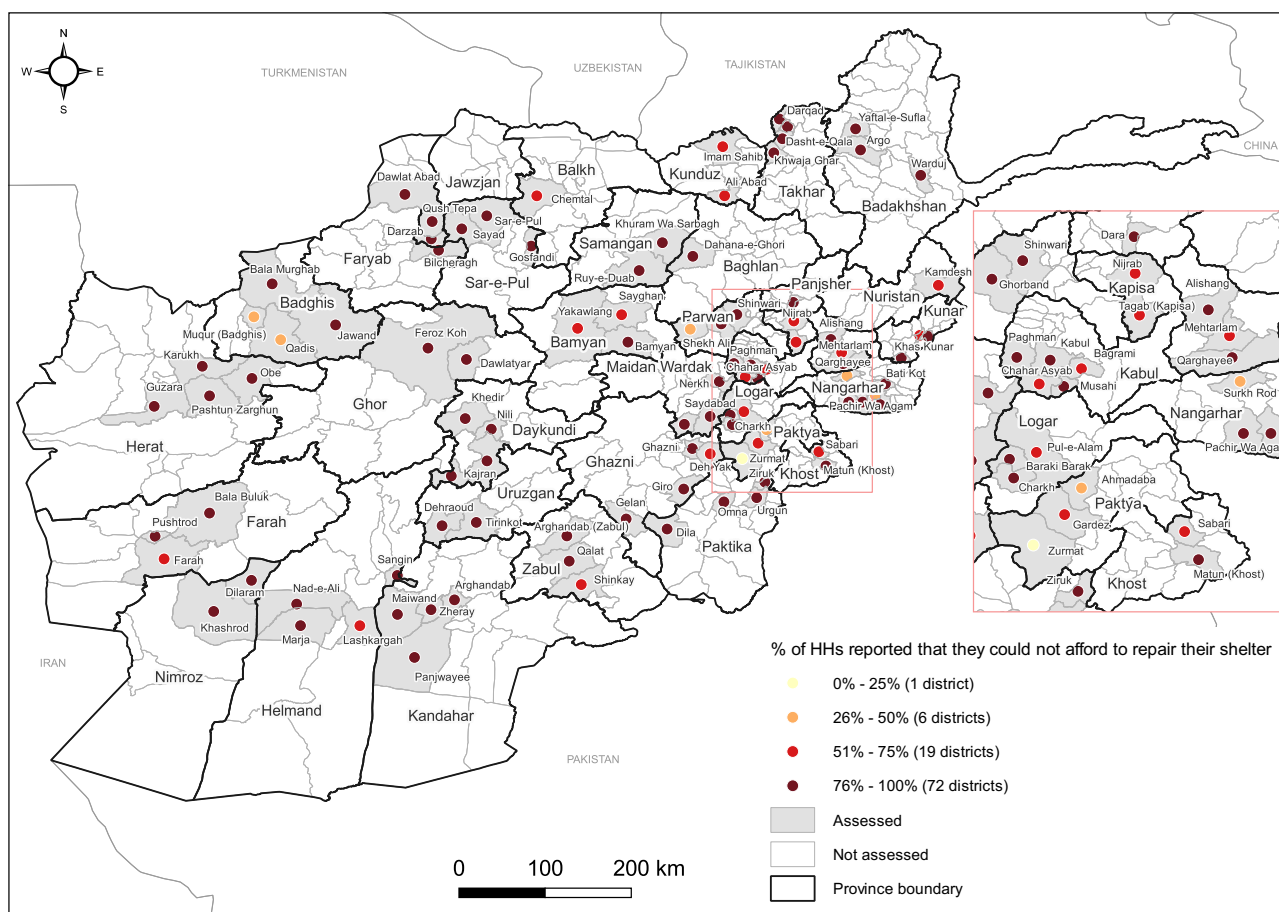
Map 1: % of households reported living in emergency shelters:



Map 2: % of households reported that their shelter had been damaged severely in the three months prior to data collection:



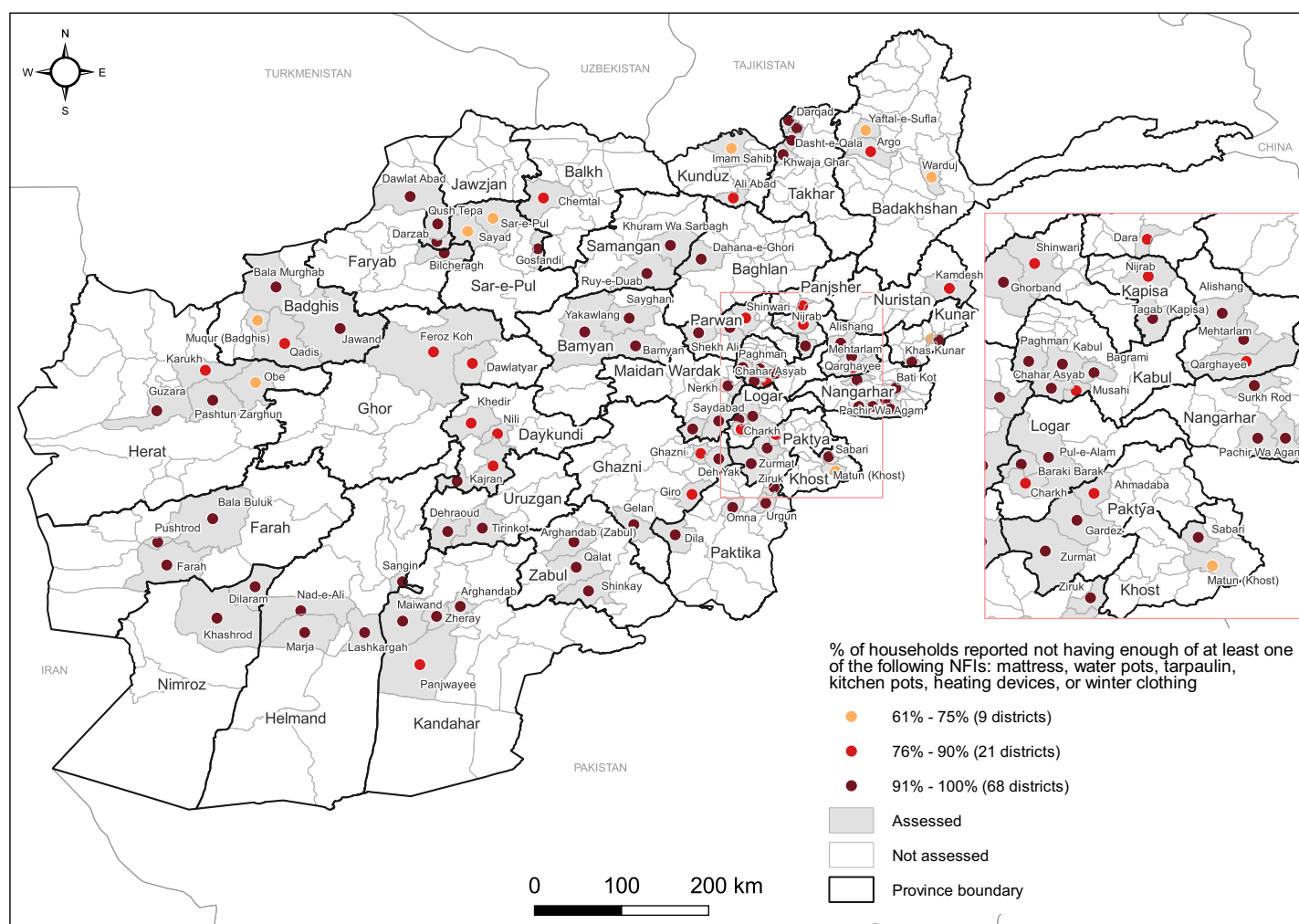
Map 3: % of households reported that they could not afford to repair their shelter:



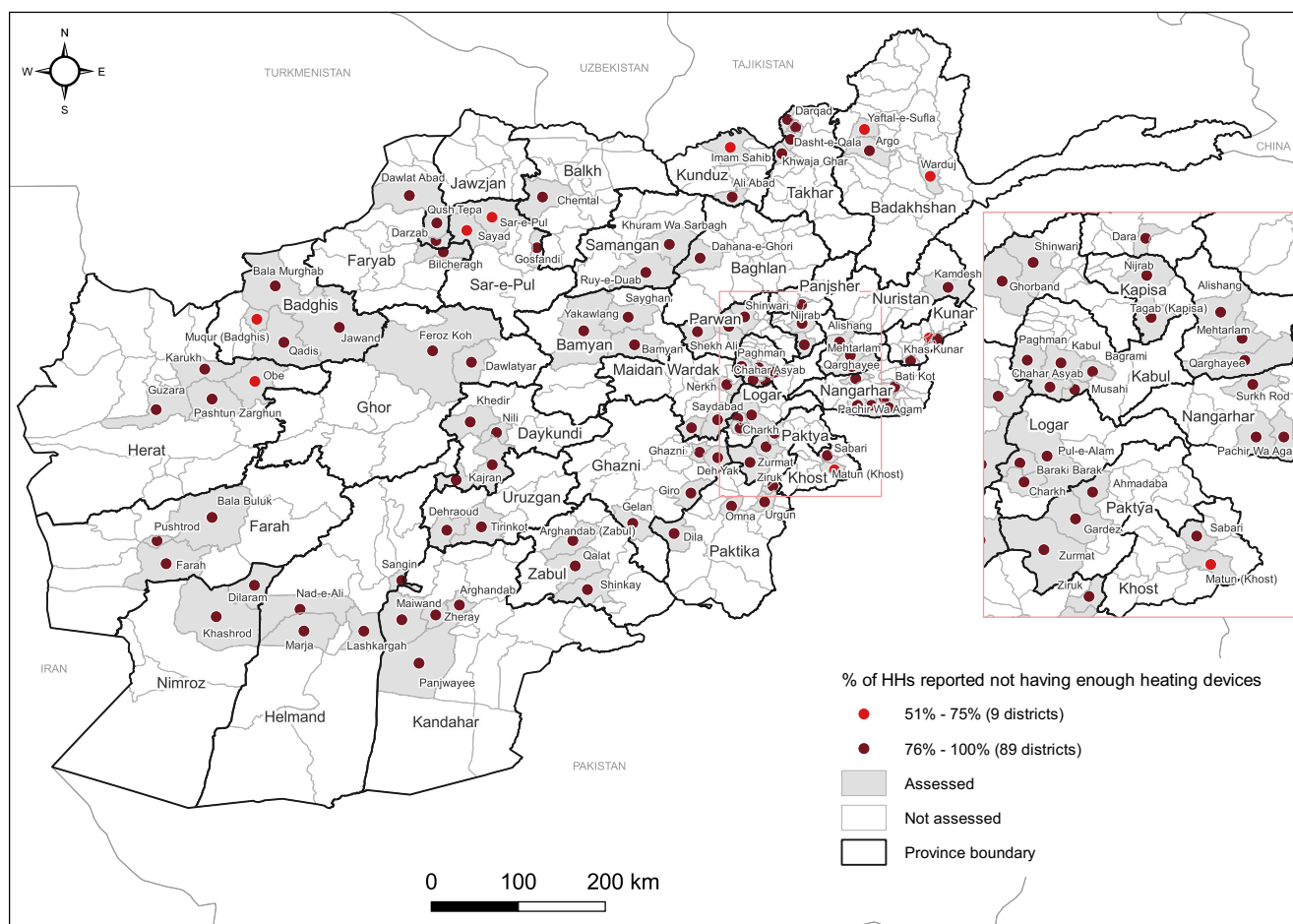
NFI and Service:

- Almost all of the households (93%) reported not having enough of at least one of the NFIs (mattresses, water pots, tarpaulin, kitchen pots, heating devices, and winter clothing) for all members. Reasons for this could be related to the overall low income with 94% of the households reporting earning less than 20,000 AFN per monthly (approximately equalling the Minimum Expenditure Basket) or the high shared of households (62%) exceeding the average family size (7) which informs NFI assistance packages.
- Households appear to be poorly equipped for winter, as four out of five households (81%) reported not having sufficient winter clothes and three out of four households (77%) reported not having enough heating devices. Furthermore, the households that have heating reported using non-sustainable sources such as wood/bush (63%), animal dung (20%), and waste (13%). While similar winterization needs exist across the country, specific attention should be given to provinces exposed to particularly low temperatures across the North-East, East, Central, and Central-Highland regions (see Map 5). According to the Sustainable Winterization Assessment conducted by REACH in 2022, a combination of in-cash heating support and in-kind blankets was regarded to be most effective.
- Amidst continuous drought conditions, about one-third of households (31%) reported that they do not have access to enough water for drinking and cooking. Among those, 78% reported not having enough water storage containers and 48% reported that their primary water source was more than 500 meters away; considerably higher figures compared to households able to access sufficient water (69%). Specifically the lack of storage capacity implies that households - most often women and children - require more time to collect water, at times exposing them to safety and protection risks.

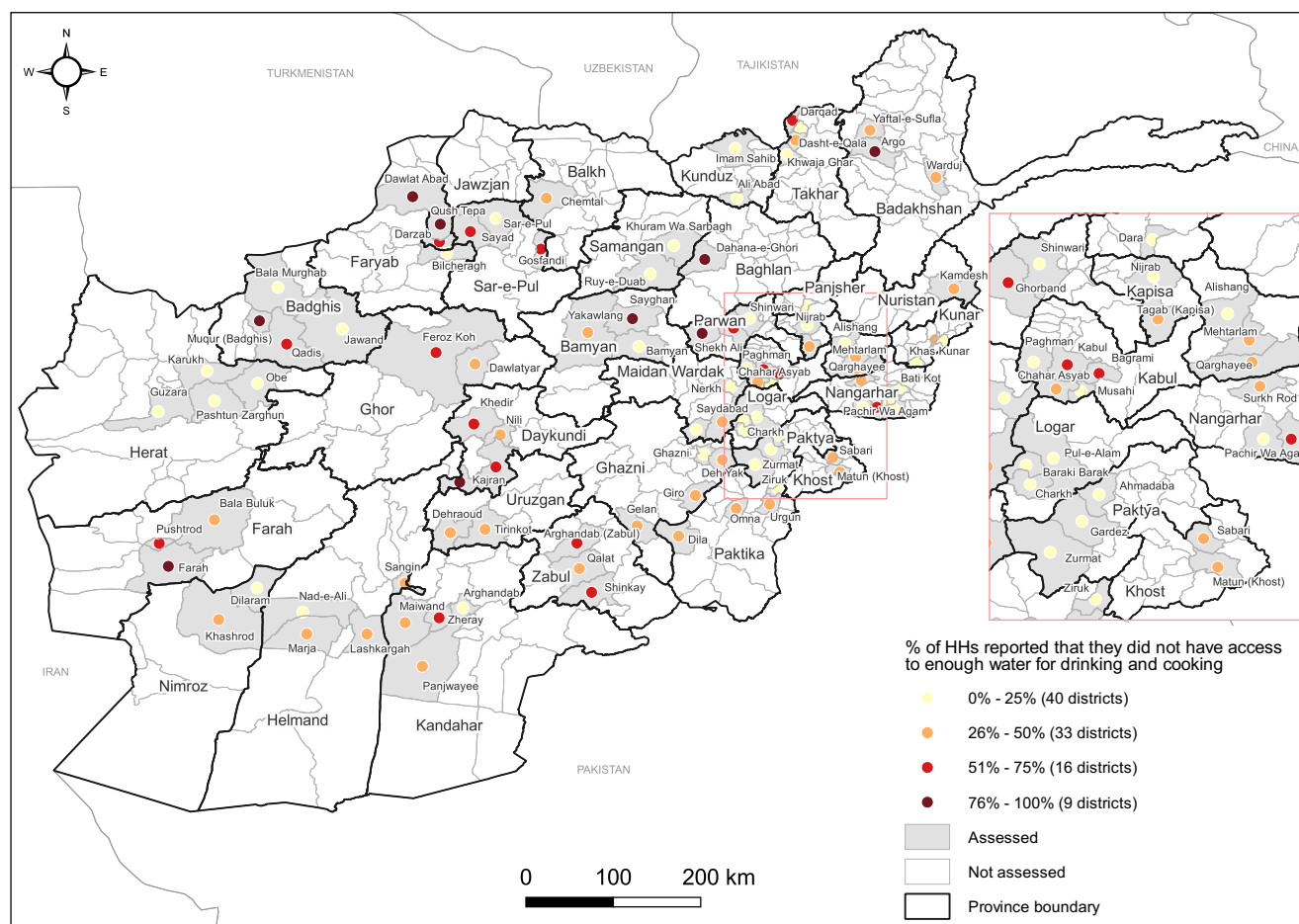
Map 4: % of households reported not having enough of at least one of the following NFIs: mattress, water pots, tarpaulin, kitchen pots, heating devices, or winter clothing:



Map 5: % of households reported not having enough heating devices:



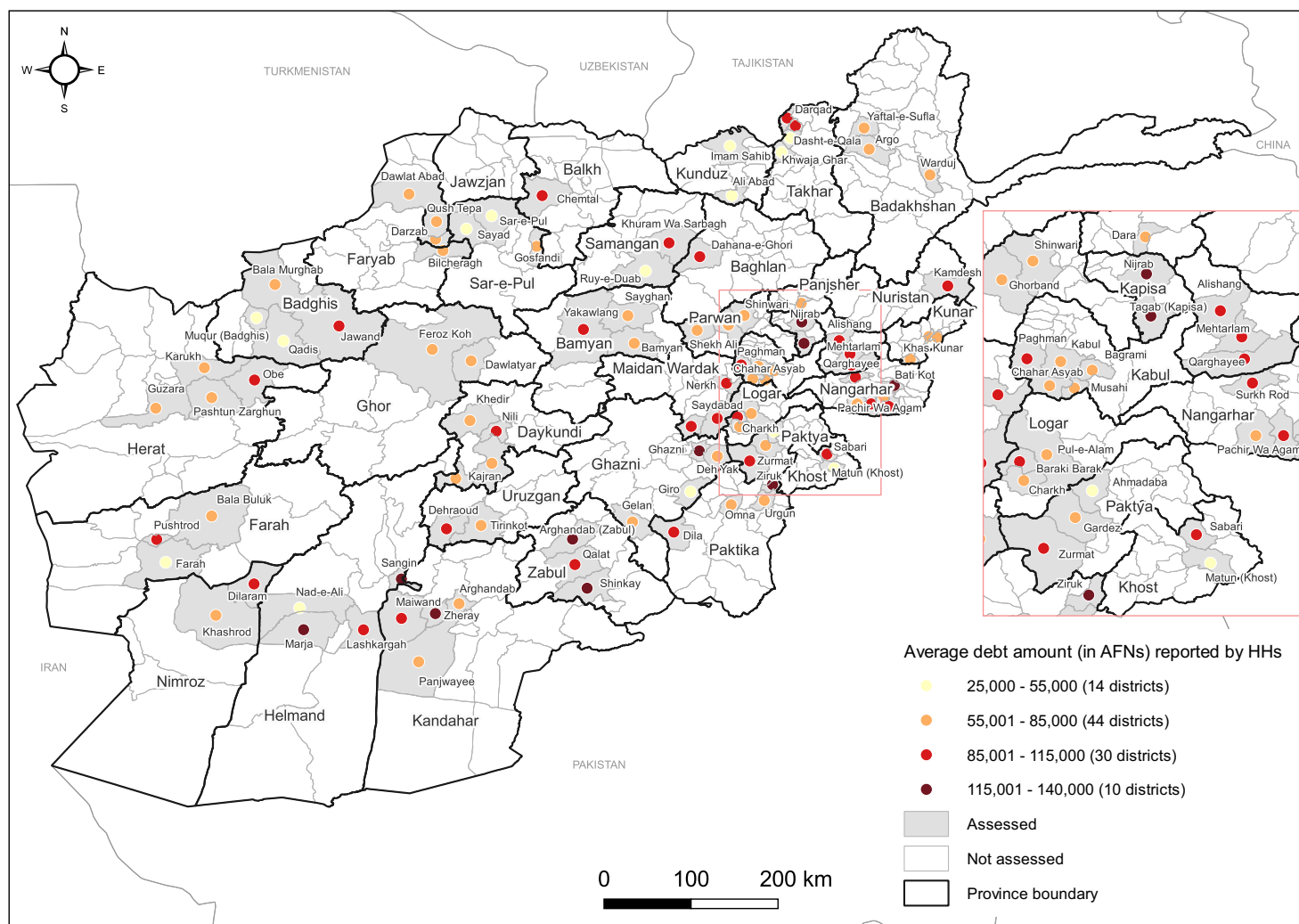
Map 6: % of households reported that they did not have access to enough water for drinking and cooking:



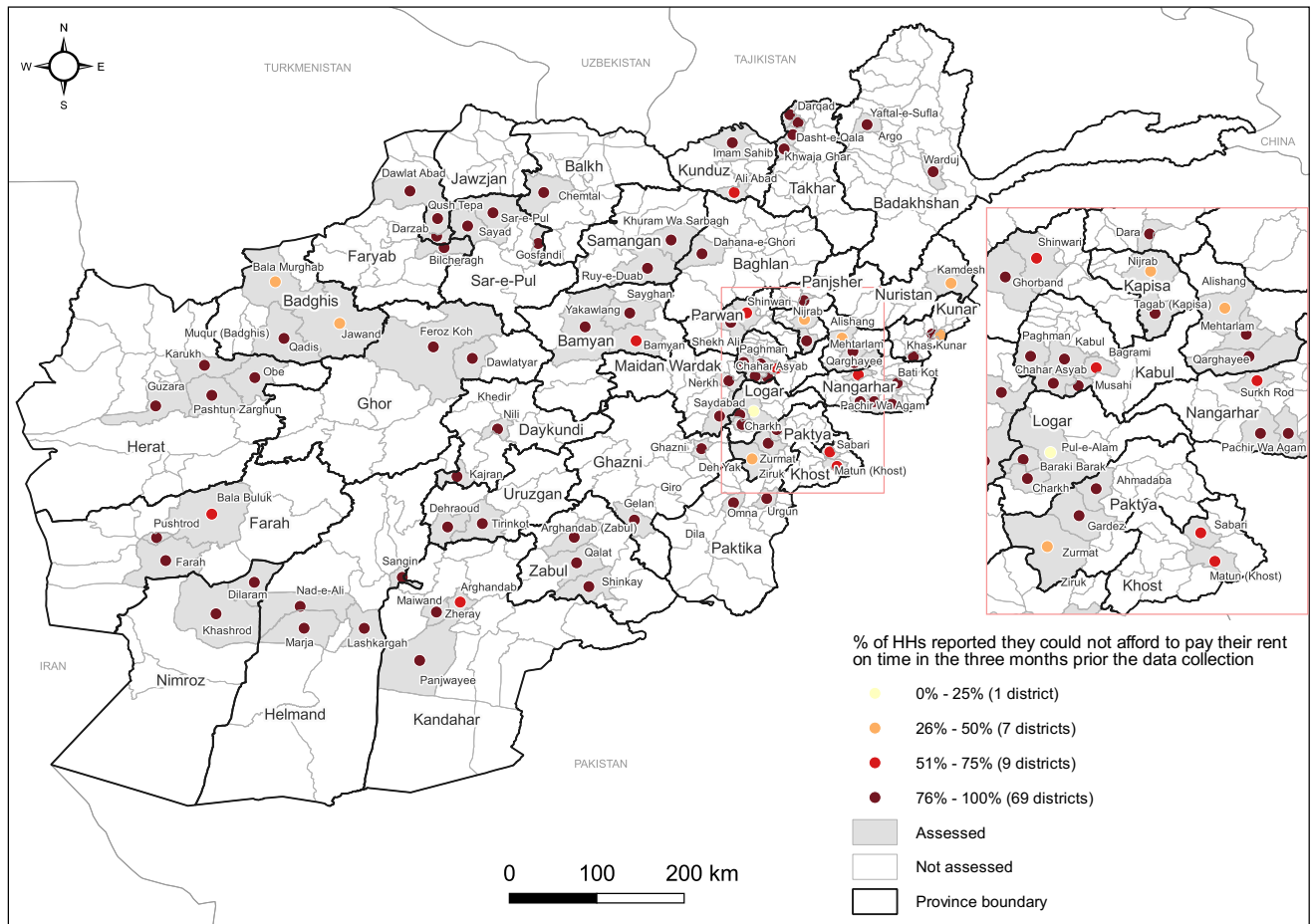
Economic Factor:

- Almost all households (93%) reported having debt, with the average debt amount (83,989 AFN) totaling 18-times the average monthly income (4,691 AFN) (see Map 7). The substantial gap between income and debt levels is a signal of Afghanistan's ongoing large-scale economic crisis making it difficult for many households to meet their basic needs. The primary reasons for taking on debt included food (95%), healthcare (78%), clothing/NFIs (38%), and fuel (36%).⁶
- Overall 10% of assessed households reported paying rent. Out of those, the majority (83%) reported not being able to pay their rent on time in the three months prior to data collection (see Map 8). Even though this is by far the primary reported reason for evictions (75%) followed by disputed about rental prices (27%), hardly any households (2%) reported that they had experienced an eviction in the past three months.⁷ However, some geographic pockets with higher eviction rates exist such as Ghazni (17%), Matun (14%) and Surkh Rod (12%) district (see Map 9).
- Amidst high debt levels and exposure to economic shocks - reported by 46% of households -, financial barriers are a key factor underpinning the ES/NFI needs of households such as shelter conditions, NFIs or rent payments, highlighting the need for targeted and sustainable assistance.

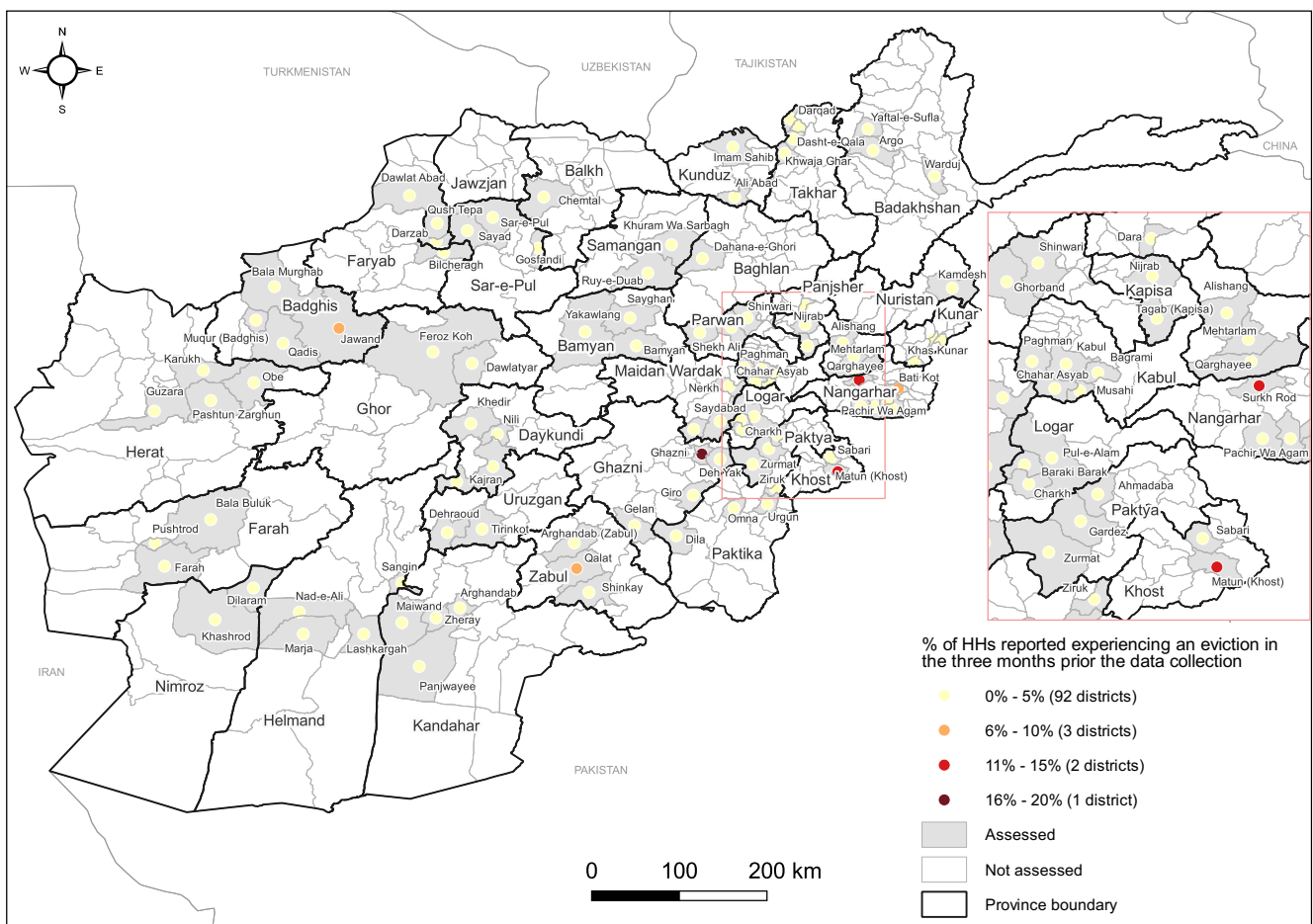
Map 7: Average debt amount (in AFNs) reported by households:



Map 8: % of households reported they could not afford to pay their rent on time in the three months prior to data collection:

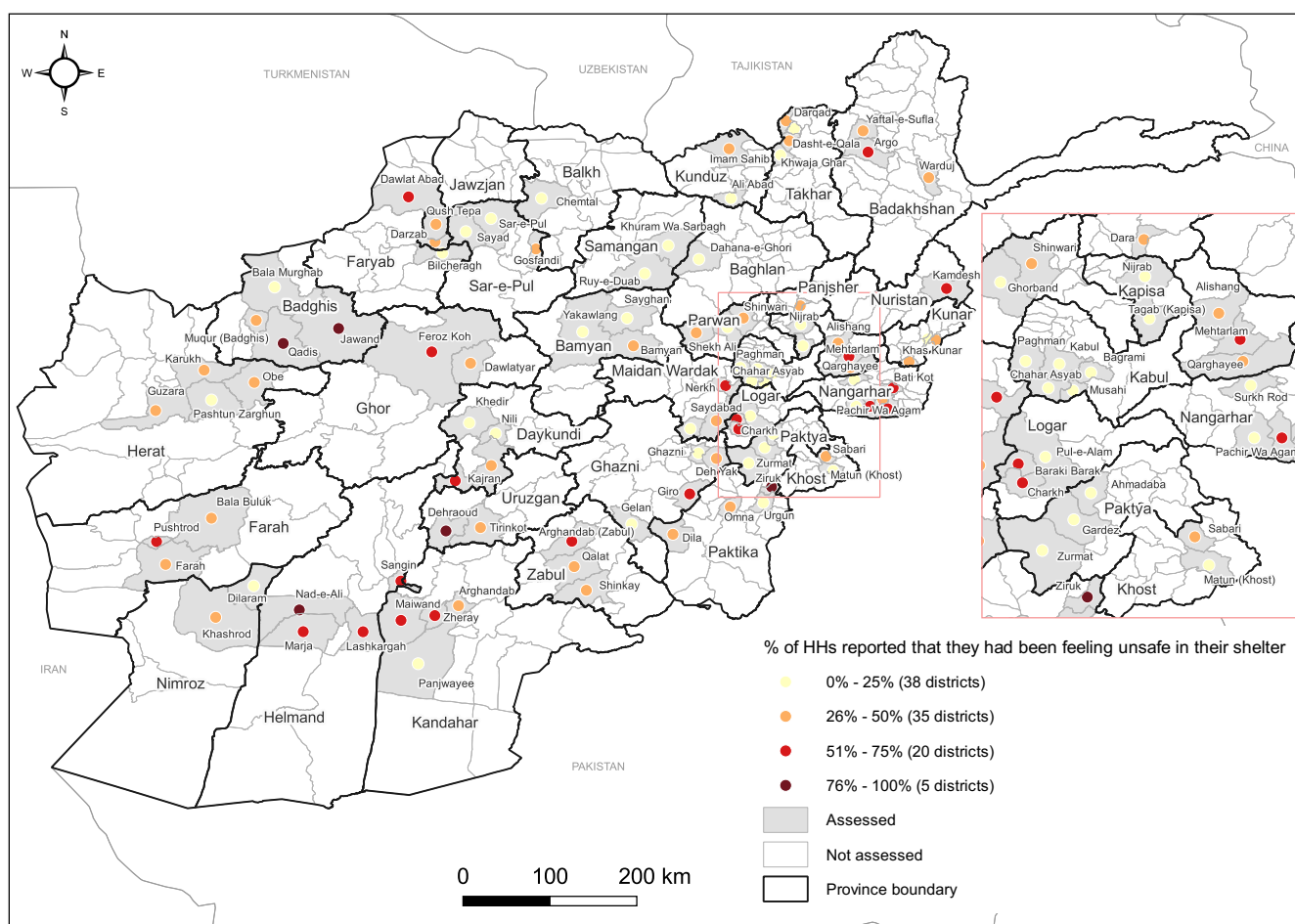


Map 9: % of households reported experiencing an eviction in the three months prior to data collection:

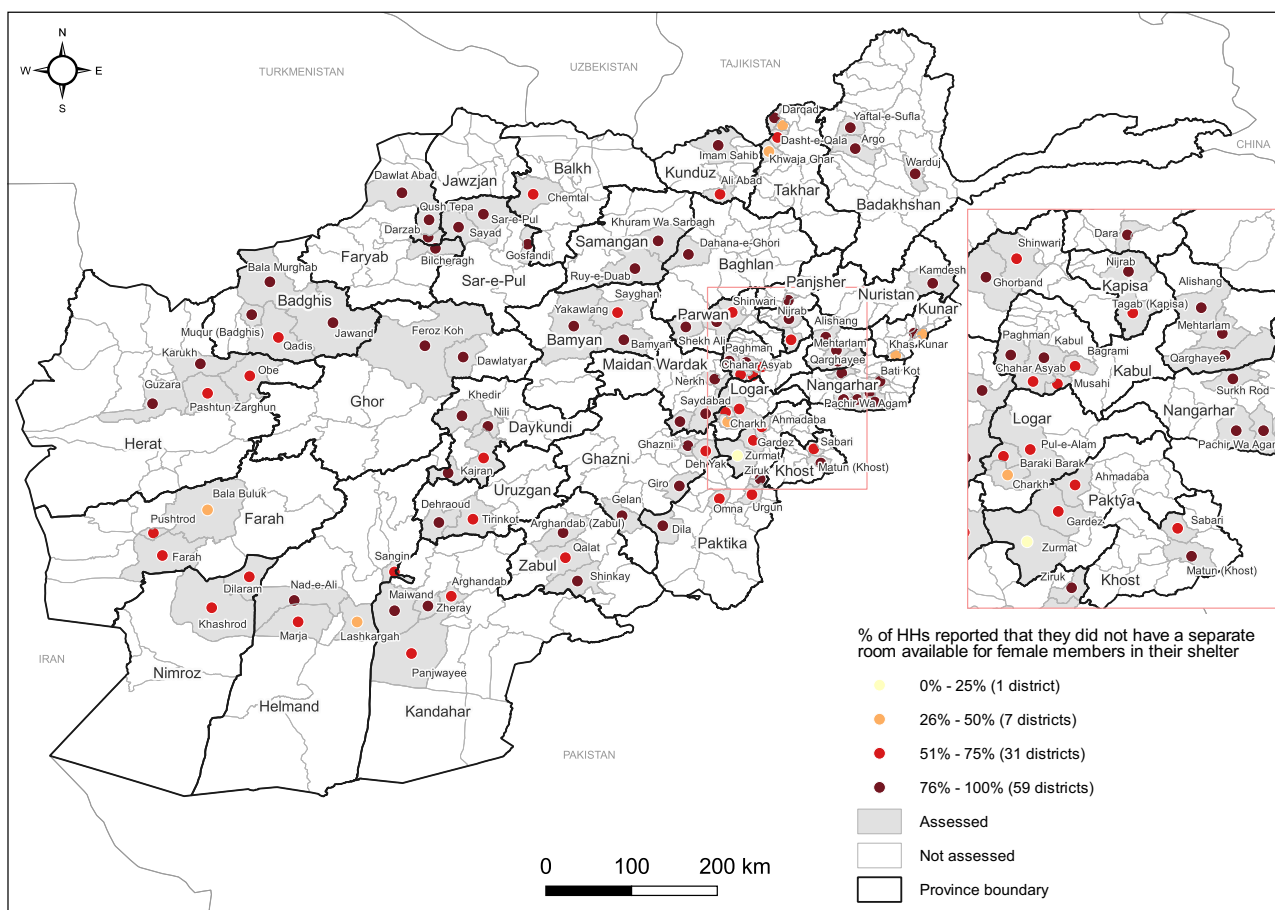


Risk:

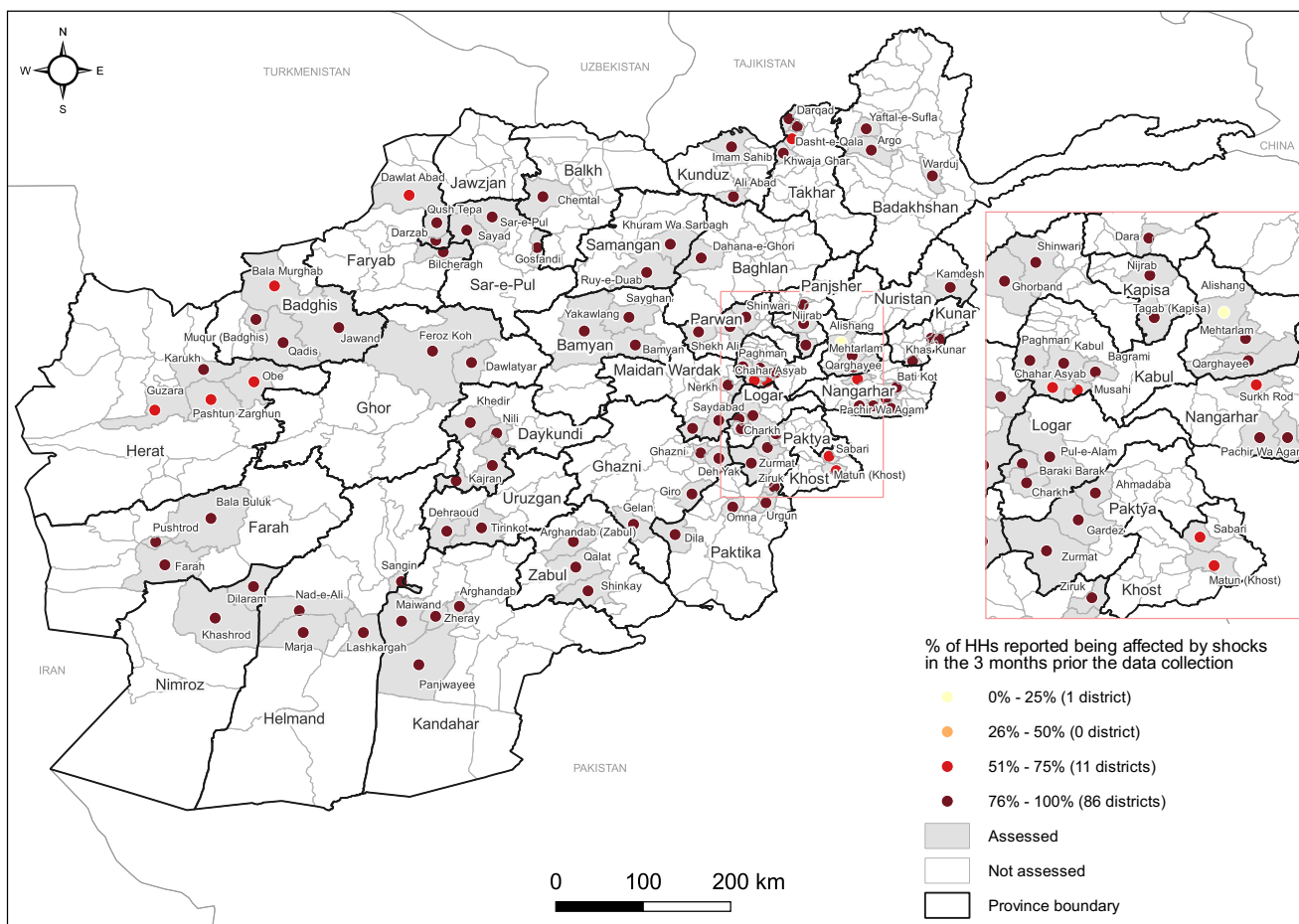
- About one-third of the households (35%) reported that they had been feeling unsafe in their shelter due to poor structures (74%) and the exposure to climate events (62%), indicating conditions that can quickly exacerbate shelter needs in the event of a sudden onset shock (see map 10).
- With large-scale conflict drastically reducing in 2022, few households reported crime (4%) or armed group violence (3%) among the major issues in their communities.
- Three out of four households (74%) reported that they did not have a separate room for female members in their shelter with potential protection risks for female households members (see Map 11).
- Most households (89%) reported having experienced at least one shock in the three months prior to data collection (see Map 12). While economic, climate and conflict shocks are frequently considered key risks and drivers of humanitarian needs it is important to recognize their varying impact to inform programmatic decision-making. Households affected by drought conditions may prioritize WASH NFI assistance, whereas households impacted by flooding or earthquakes may require more immediate shelter repair kits, and households exposed to economic shocks may need prolonged assistance to maintain their shelter conditions and NFIs.

Map 10: % of households reported that they had been feeling unsafe in their shelter:

Map 11: % of households reported that they did not have a separate room available for female members in their shelter:



Map 12: % of households reported being affected by shocks in the 3 months prior to data collection:



METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

REACH and the ES/NFI Cluster developed a three-stage methodology for the RAM:

- 1) An analytical framework consisting of four shelter indicators from REACH's quarterly [Humanitarian Situation Monitoring](#) (HSM) was designed to identify the districts with the highest ES/NFI needs to be included in the assessment;⁸
- 2) Within the selected districts, the Regional Focal Points and Provincial Focal Point of the Shelter cluster then conducted one inperson Key Informant Interviews at each site to identify three key sites of concern;
- 3) Once determined, ES/NFI partners collected household level data in the selected sites using a structured assessment tool.

The data was then cleaned and analyzed by REACH, providing representative findings at the site level with a 95% confidence interval and a 10% margin of error and indicative aggregated findings at the district level. The nationwide RAM was conducted twice in 2022 to identify and prioritize the population most in need of ES/NFI assistance as well as to inform funding allocations of the AHF. The joint findings presented in this factsheet are indicative at the district level and representative at the national level with a 95% confidence interval and a 1% margin of error. For more information on the research ToR, factsheets, and tabulated datasets, for both RAM 1 and 2 assessment rounds, please refer to the [REACH resource center](#).⁹

ENDNOTES

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¹ [UNOCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview: Afghanistan 2023](#)

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² A shelter is considered to be moderately damaged if some of its doors and windows are damaged, it has cracks in its walls and is somewhat uncomfortable to live in.

³ A shelter is considered to be severely damaged if some of its walls are collapsed, all of its doors and windows are damaged, and the structure is unstable and it is dangerous to live in.

⁴ A shelter was considered as an emergency shelter if is unfinished, makeshift, severely damaged, a tent, transitional, a collective center, or open space.

⁵ Respondents could select multiple answer options.

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⁶ Respondents could select multiple answer options.

⁷ Here eviction means a household being removed from a house without a proper procedure mainly because of the following reasons: unable to pay rent; disputes about rental price; disputes about ownership; or other disagreements with a landlord.

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⁸ [REACH, Humanitarian Situation Monitoring: Afghanistan 2022](#)

⁹ [REACH Resource Center, RAM Assessment: Afghanistan 2022](#)

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).