

The Cluster was activated in March 2008 with UNHCR as the lead Agency supported by IOM as the co-chair. The cluster meets monthly at the national level while meetings at the provincial level are based on needs. It has more than 25 members and operates in almost all provinces.

## Goal and Objectives

The primary goal of the ES/NFI Cluster in Afghanistan is to coordinate timely response and provision of life saving assistance in meeting the shelter and basic household needs of the most vulnerable affected population.

For 2017, the Cluster has three objectives that are linked to the overall Strategic Objectives of the Humanitarian Response Plan

- Coordinated and timely ES/NFIs response to families affected by natural disaster and armed conflict (SO1)
- Coordinated and timely ES/NFI response to returnees (SO1)
- Families falling into acute vulnerability due to shock are assisted with ES/NFIs interventions to address humanitarian needs in the medium term (SO3)



*An IDP female head of household receives winterization assistance from UNHCR in Kabul.*

*26 November 2017*

*ES/NFI Cluster has developed a Winterization Strategy together with the Government to respond to the seasonal vulnerability of IDPs, returnees and the most vulnerable host community members throughout the winter 2017-2018.*

## Key Cluster priorities

- Emergency preparedness
- Emergency response through the provision of emergency shelter and Non Food Items ( NFI) to conflict and natural disaster affected population and to newly arrived vulnerable returnees from neighboring countries
- Improving the living standards of families with shocked induced acute vulnerability through the upgrading of existing shelters, the provision of transitional shelter to meet their immediate and medium term needs
- Support permanent shelter solutions for mainly returnee families with land tenure rights

## Key challenges:

- The lack of livelihood opportunities continue to hamper access to adequate shelter while the cost of rent is increasing.
- Urban displacement and informal settlements are increasing with the lack of durable solutions
- Access to land still remains a substantial concern and impediment to shelter assistance



Laila building her own home NRC's female shelter team in Kabul, supporting female headed households. © NRC

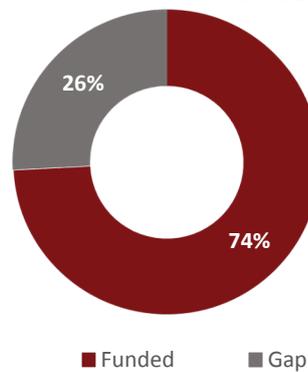
Laila (47) became a widow in 2010 at the age of 41 when her husband was killed in Behsud district of Maidan Wardak Province, Afghanistan. In Merkazi Behsud her home was destroyed by the conflict and she fled to the outskirts of Kabul City to seek shelter in an informal settlement. Laila managed to find part-time work in a women's bakery, where she earned enough to cover the monthly rent and basic needs for herself and her three children. Laila has built her own home after being referred to NRC's all female shelter team in Kabul by community leaders. She is one of the 75 women who have benefited from NRC's Shelter Programme which is supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA).

## Achievements

There is a decrease in the trends of displacement and returns as compared to 2016. Therefore, the overall Humanitarian Response Plan during the mid-year review was revised. Accordingly, the ESNFI Cluster targets and budgetary requirements were also revised. The new target for NFIs is 600,000 persons and for Shelter it is 273,000 persons. Therefore, the total budgetary requirements was reduced from \$ 38 million to \$36 million for 2017. The Cluster have so far received \$ 26,714,151 at the time of writing. This includes funding from bilateral donors and the common humanitarian funding mechanisms.

As of 01 January - 30 November 2017, the Cluster responded to various ES/NFI needs of approximately **476,607 individuals** against its total target of 0.6 million individuals in 2017. In support of post emergency response, about 30% of the assisted population received additional in-kind/cash assistance for shelter and NFI including winterization assistance to meet their needs.

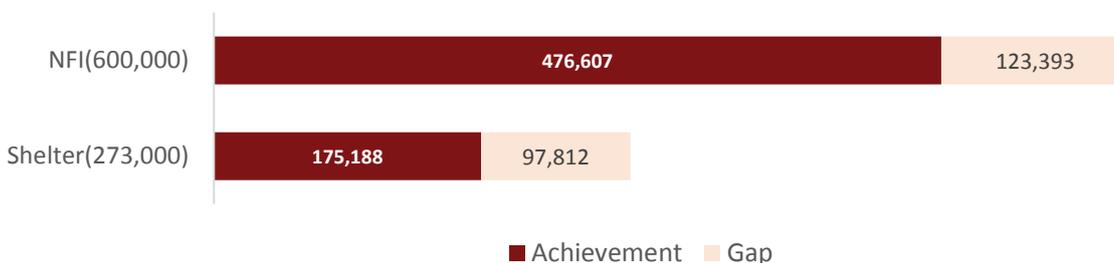
## FUNDING



Total funding required:

# 36 M

## REACHED POPULATION AGAINST TARGETS



## Key things to know

Afghanistan, officially the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, is a landlocked country located within South Asia and Central Asia. The total population of the country in 1395 (2016 -17) is estimated to be at 29.2 million persons<sup>1</sup> with 34 provinces.

According to OCHA, as of January to November 2017, more than 390,940 persons have been newly displaced by conflict in 2017.

According to UNHCR and IOM, more than 565,586 persons returned (documented and undocumented) to Afghanistan as of January to November 2017

UNHCR leads Emergency Shelter/NFI Cluster in Afghanistan being the provider of last resort. Since January 2017 to November 2017 UNHCR provided 17,484 NFI packages, 3,766 tents and is supporting the construction of 381 shelter units.

Since 2002, UNHCR has assisted 226,572 households with shelter in Afghanistan. For the 2017 winterization response, UNHCR is covering about 50% of the estimated 78,013 families in need of the standard winterization package (\$200 per family). Other cluster partners are providing additional blankets and clothing to 50,000 families.

A recent shelter specific needs assessments conducted by ES/NFI Cluster partners in the hard to reach areas in Faryab, Kunduz, Baghlan, Jawzjan, Balh, Kandahar, Ghazni, Helmand, Uruzgan, Zabul, Kunar, Laghman, Paktika, Nangarhar and Herat Provinces identified a total of 19,544 families/136,808 individuals in need of emergency shelter including cash for rent, non-food items and upgrading of existing shelters to further enable a safe and dignified living conditions. These families are living in worsening shelter conditions and lack basic household items. Out of the 19,544 families assessed, 17,127 families have been prioritized as the most vulnerable and would require immediate assistance as follows:

- 1,905 families in need of cash for rent
- 4,777 families in need of emergency shelter and NFIs
- 1,123 families in need of NFI only
- 4,134 families in need of emergency shelter only
- 1,798 families in need of upgrading existing shelters
- 3,390 families in need of both upgrading of shelters and NFI
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An NRC study revealed that 37% of those in the hard to reach areas live in worsening shelter conditions including damaged shelters, tents and makeshift structure as compared to 47% in urban areas

According to the Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment conducted by REACH in informal settlements in the Northern, Western, Eastern and Central regions in 2017, 69% people need fuel (the highest in the North and West, 80%) and 73% need winterization materials (highest rates in the South East and North, 85% and 89% respectively). There are more than 620 informal settlements in Afghanistan<sup>2</sup>

Afghanistan consists of 70% mountainous areas at high altitude making populations located in these areas more vulnerable to winter conditions. Furthermore, 21 of the country's 34 provinces across the Central, Central Highlands, North, North-Eastern and Westerns regions did not only experience the most extreme and lasting winter temperatures but also host large IDP and recent returnee populations

In comparison to non-food items, shelter is the top priority for IDPs and returnees but access to land and security of tenure are the main impediments. The government is working to resolve this but the needs are very high.

## KEY NUMBERS

<b>390,940</b>	New IDPs from Jan-Nov 2017
<b>19%</b>	IDPs are in hard to reach areas
<b>565,586</b>	Persons returned from other countries from Jan-November 2017
<b>37%</b>	People in hard to reach areas live in worsening shelter conditions
<b>620</b>	Informal settlements across the country

<sup>1</sup> Central Statistics Organization (CSO), Afghanistan

<sup>2</sup> See here: <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/afghanistan-informal-settlement-mapping-and-profiling-master-list-july-2017>

## ES/NFI Cluster Coordination Structure

### Sub-National Level

As per the inter-cluster humanitarian structure to enhance coordination, Afghanistan is divided into Regions. This is not in line with the government administrative structure as each of the 34 Provinces have its individual administrative structures which is governed by a Provincial Governor.

In line with the above mentioned inter-cluster structure, the ES/NFI Cluster established seven sub-national levels or Regional Coordination Mechanisms (Central Highlands, Central, Southeast, Northeast/North, South, West and East). Each of the Regions has a focal point. Six out of the seven is chaired and co-chaired by UNHCR and IOM while one is chaired and co-chaired by IOM and IRC.

The Cluster took further measures to establish Provincial coordination mechanisms represented by Provincial Focal Points to enhance the overall sub-national coordination with partners and government. The Provincial Focal Points are comprised of National and International NGOs who have presence and are operational in the various Provinces. The Provincial Focal Points represent the Cluster and coordinates ES/NFI activities at the Provincial level.

### National Level

- Cluster Coordinator (UNHCR)
- Martha Kow-Donkor
- Deputy Cluster Coordinator (UNHCR)  
Mohammad Baqir Haidari
- Cluster Co-Chair (IOM)
- Ahmadi Gul Mohammad
- Information Management Officer (UNHCR)
- Kedir Shemsu Mohamed
- Government Counterparts: Ministry of Returnee and Repatriation (MoRR)
- Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA),
- Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and

## Shelter cluster Partners in Afghanistan

ACF | ACTED | ADRA | AFGHAN AID | AIESO | ARCS | CARE | CARITAS GERMANY | CHRISTIAN AID | CONCERN | CORDAID | DRC | FOCUS | HI | HRDA | IRC | iMMAP | IMC | IOM | ISLAMIC RELIEF | MISSION EAST | NAC | NCA | NCRO | NOMAD CONCEPT GROUP (private sector) | NRC | PIN | PU-AMI | QRCS | REACH | RELIEF INT | SAMUEL HALL | SAVE THE CHILDREN | SHELTER FOR LIFE | SOLIDARITE INT | UNICEF | UNHCR | UN-HABITAT | WAR CHILD | WELTHUNGERHILFE | ZOA

## Donors Funding Emergency Shelter and NFIs activities in Afghanistan

AAR JAPAN | CAID | CHF | CORDAID MENSEN IN NOOD | DANIDA | DUTCH MoFA | ECHO | GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA | IR- AUSTRALIA | IR- UK | IR -USA | NCA | OFDA | SIDA | STAR FUND | STICHTING VLUCHTELING(SV) | USAID