


AFGHANISTAN MONTHLY PROTECTION MONITORING SUMMARY


JUNE 2024






2,451 assessments conducted in June


16,185 persons reached




42% decrease of total assessments compared to May



Conducted across **95 districts** in **32 provinces**



28.5% of interviewed households are headed by women. Out of the overall household members, **52 %** are female, of which **25 %** are girls, and **47 %** are children



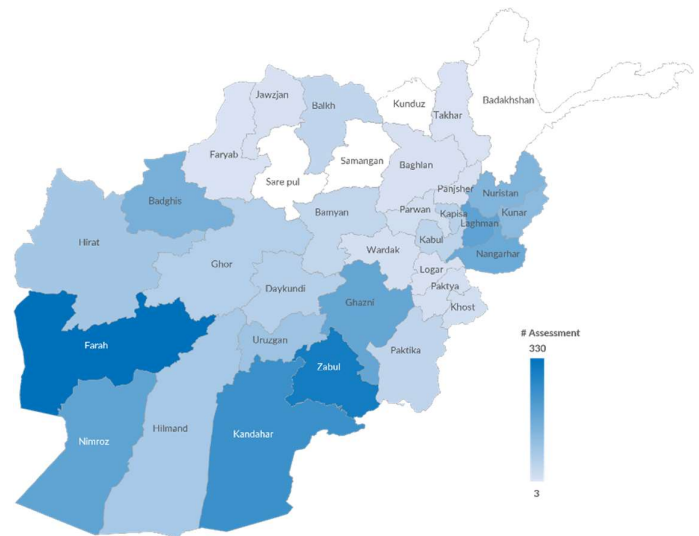
7.5% heads of households with **disabilities**

Introduction

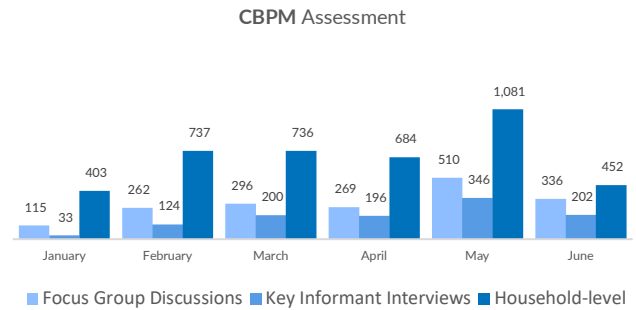
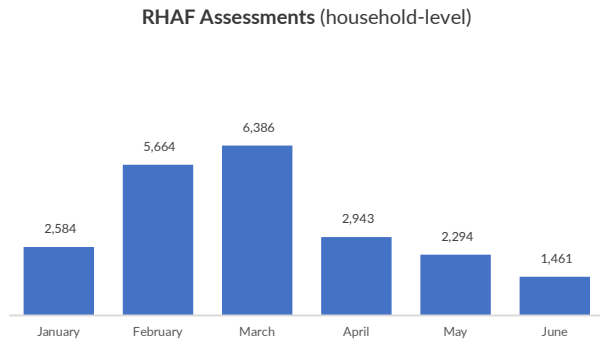
The analysis provided in this report relies on data gathered through UNHCR’s protection monitoring tools. UNHCR’s **Community Based Protection Monitoring (CBPM)** interventions include household-level assessments, key informant interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs), aiming to collect evidence-based information on the protection needs and risks of displaced, returnee and host communities. CBPM outcomes inform UNHCR programming and strategic decision making and advocacy, and also feeds into the [Afghanistan Protection Cluster's analysis](#) and information products. **Rapid multi-sectoral household assessments (RHAF)** aim to identify persons in need of assistance through UNHCR’s protection and assistance programmes and also provide valuable insights into the vulnerabilities of households as well as related protection needs and risks. The selection of areas is based on the high density of displaced and returnees among communities, including priority areas of return and reintegration and newly accessible areas. UNHCR’s population groups include refugee returnees, IDPs, IDP returnees, refugees and asylum seekers and members of the host communities.

KEY POINTS

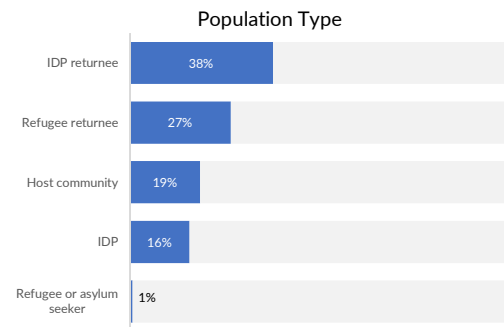
- **Women and girls** continue to face significant challenges in accessing basic services and assistance, reflecting their systemic discrimination and movement restrictions.
- **Among the surveyed households, 68%** have at least one **family member lacking civil documentation**.
- **Among the surveyed population in June, 48% of head of household** reported experiencing one or more forms of vulnerabilities.
- **Food assistance** was the most crucial need highlighted by surveyed households, followed by MHPSS.
- **Many families reported having resorted to harmful coping mechanisms**, such as borrowing money, selling assets or harmful practices that imply serious child protection risks.



OVERVIEW OF THE DATA COLLECTED



- UNHCR conducted 2,451 assessments in June 2024, using various tools such as household assessments, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions to assess communities' protection needs and risks.
- Most interviewed households were IDP returnees**, followed by refugee returnees, reflecting UNHCR's focus on the specific protection issues that Afghans face upon their return.
- Across all assessment modalities, **UNHCR reached 16,185 individuals** in June, the majority of whom were women and children. 28.5% of the households were headed by women.



- UNHCR is working closely with all its partners to **ensure the participation of female staff in all activities** and is using various modalities to **capture the voices of women and girls despite the severe restrictions**.

IDENTIFIED VULNERABILITIES



48% with vulnerabilities



49% experienced stress affecting their day-to-day life



7.5% heads of households with disabilities

- According to the RHAF survey conducted in June, **48% of head of households have some form of vulnerability**, among them persons with life-threatening health issues, female-headed households, and elderly persons at risk. These findings are supported by the CBPM household assessments, which also point to 10% of the households surveyed being headed by widows and 11% by older persons or children, showing an increase of 5% from the previous month.
- According to the CBPM survey conducted in June, **49% of respondents indicated that they or their family members had experienced feelings of stress that affected their day-to-day life**, pointing to a high prevalence of MHPSS issues among the surveyed population. This shows a decrease of 2% from the previous month. The main stressors identified were lack of employment and severe economic hardship, food insecurity, and physical health problems, alongside unavailability or lack of access to services, school dropout, child labor, denied access to education and forced marriage. As a result of expressing stress, 25% of the respondents indicated that they had observed **behavioral changes** in the

household, which included family members appearing sad and stressed, loss of appetite, aggressiveness, self-isolation, and thoughts of self-harm.

- Vulnerabilities were also high among household members, pointing to the **multi-faceted protection risks that Afghan families face**. The main vulnerabilities observed under the RHAF include children at risk **14.6%**, women at risk **12.9%**, pregnant and breastfeeding women **30.6%**, Elderly persons at risk **5.4%**, as well as persons with disabilities among heads of household **4.6%**. In addition, CBPM data also points to high rates of school dropouts among surveyed families due to a lack of financial support by families and the engagement of children in child labor. Life-threatening health issues (35%) and legal protection and security needs (8%) are among other risks and vulnerabilities pointed out by the CBPM respondents. **CBPM monitors have also observed tension or violence in 22% of the households (increased by 6%),** affecting predominantly women (44%), children (42%), older persons (8%) as well as persons with disabilities (7%) .

SAFETY & FREEDOM



30% mention community areas **off-limits for women and girls**

- **30% of the heads of households indicated that there are places in the community that women and girls cannot access**, highlighting the significant challenges in freedom of movement and participation in public life.
- The **main places that women and girls cannot go to** include education facilities, markets, water points, clinics, and latrines.
- The **main reasons for movement limitations** include discrimination, harassment and intimidations in public areas, lack of identity and civil documents, mahram requirements and safety concerns related to debts and social and cultural barriers.

CIVIL DOCUMENTATION



68% report lack of **civil documentation**



63% reported barriers **accessing legal services**

- Around **68% of all households surveyed have members who need civil documentation. Women and children are by far the most affected population groups. Undocumented returnees and IDP display significantly higher rates (86%% and 71%, respectively)**, while the number of refugee returnees and IDPs returnees is lower (70% and 66%, respectively). In light of the civil documentation needs reported for Afghan returnees from Pakistan, this trend will be closely observed over the following months.
- The **primary documents missing are the e-tazkera and the paper tazkera**, followed by passports, marriage, birth, and other certificates. The main reason is that these documents were never obtained, or the households interviewed lack knowledge about the procedures.
- **According to the CBPM survey conducted in June, 63%** of the respondents needed access to legal services, including civil documentation and HLP (**12%** higher than the previous month). Unavailability of services, high costs, lack of information on services, transportation limitations, and discrimination and/or exclusion affected women and girls the most.

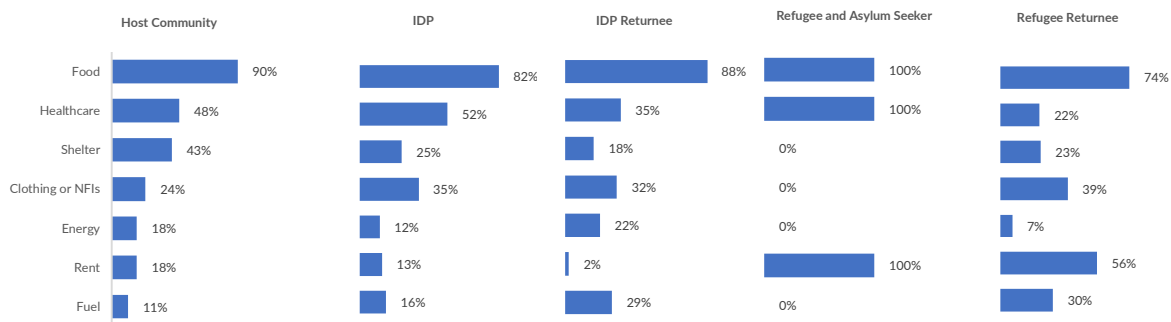
- The **impact of not having documentation is drastic**, with two-thirds of the respondents indicating that it prevents them from accessing basic services. It is also a barrier to accessing education, and governmental or humanitarian assistance and contributes to movement restrictions.

NEEDS PRIORITIZATION, ACCESS TO SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE PROVIDED



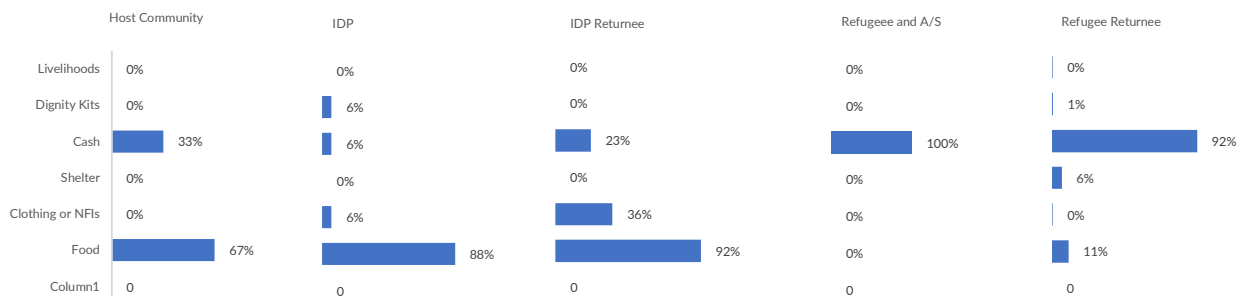
83% mention **food** as the most pressing need

Top Needs



- **Food assistance** was the most crucial need prioritized by households surveyed under the RHAF, followed by NFI/clothes, health costs, fuel, shelter, rent, and energy. According to the RHAF survey conducted in June, despite the assistance provided, 72% of the surveyed households are still in need of humanitarian assistance.

Assistance Provided



- This is confirmed by the CBPM findings, which show 79% of all households reported being in need of food assistance in the past three months, mainly due to lack of knowledge about eligibility criteria and procedures. The percentage is even higher among female respondents (73%) than male respondents (72%), pointing to the heightened economic vulnerability of women.

- **Respondents also face challenges in accessing MHPSS services and drinking water**, with 64% and 56% of households needing access to these essential services. Interestingly, access to health services was considered better by female respondents (49%) than by male (36%).
- However, irrespective of the gender of the head of household, **all respondents highlighted that among those facing access challenges, women and girls are by far the most affected groups**. Refugee returnees and host community members are particularly affected by overcrowded shelters. Other shelter related concerns include damages, lack of protective walls and doors and privacy.
- **Overall, women and girls continue to face significant challenges in accessing the most basic services**, reflecting the systemic discrimination and movement restrictions.
- Other main barriers to accessing services include unavailability of services, high costs (including for transportation), lack of information on services as well as lack of documents.

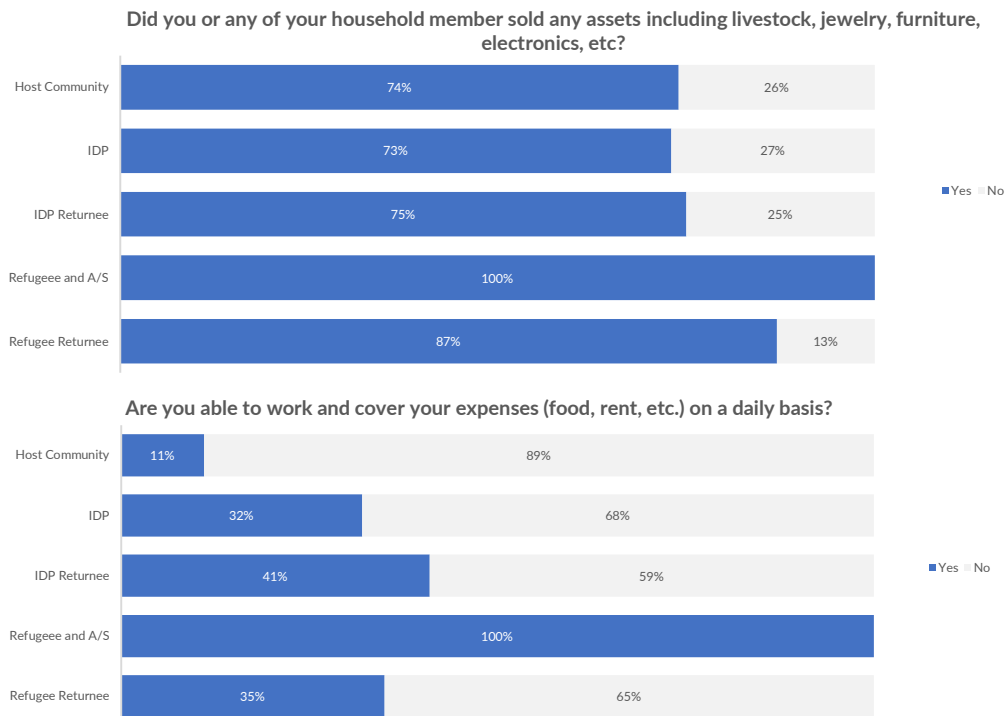
LIVELIHOODS AND COPING STRATEGIES



78% reported **selling assets** to meet vital needs.



65% struggle to cover **daily living expenses** (food, rent, and other basic needs)



- Due to financial constraints and high poverty, many families have resorted to harmful coping mechanisms with severe implications that significantly impact women and children. CBPM and RHAF data indicate that most households borrow money to cope with **financial problems**. The prevalence was even higher for refugee and returnees surveyed.
- **Other coping mechanisms** identified were selling assets (78% of RHAF respondents and 69% of CBPM respondents have resorted to this measure), skipping meals or reducing meal sizes, engaging in hazardous work or family members relocating abroad.

- Alarming, a significant number of CBPM respondents indicated that due to acute poverty and financial reasons, their families had adopted harmful practices that imply serious child protection risks, including sending children to work – including to neighboring countries – and child/forced marriage and children engaged in hazardous work that affects their wellbeing. The findings highlight the urgent need to support vulnerable families through integrated programming interventions, including child protection, livelihoods, and community engagement.

HOUSEHOLDS EMPLOYMENT STATUS & SOURCE OF INCOME



73% engaged in **informal income-generating activities**

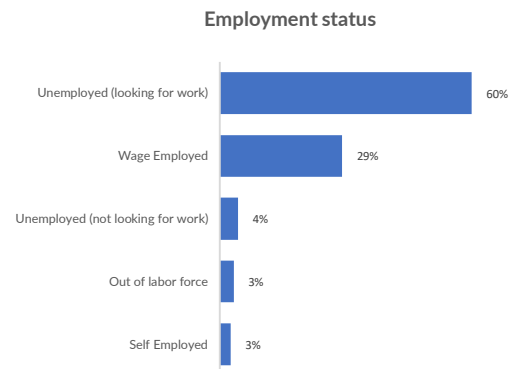


66% rely on **financial support from relatives**



60% are **unemployed**

- According to the RHAF survey conducted in June, over 60.4 % of households are unemployed, 94% have accrued debts, and 29.3% % rely on daily labor, with whatever income generated usually spent on essential needs and debt repayment. A total of 65% of the surveyed households were not able to afford daily life expenses such as providing food, rent, and other basic critical needs.
- The lack of economic opportunities, entrenched poverty, repeated and protracted displacement, and the shrinking protection space have been eroding people’s resilience and point to the critical need for livelihood and economic empowerment interventions.



LEADING CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT AND INTENTIONS FOR RETURN AND REINTEGRATION



While **49% of all IDPs** refer to **armed conflict including human rights violations** as top reason for their displacement, those displaced within the last three months referred to **natural disasters** as the main cause.

- According to the CBPM survey conducted in June, the main reason for the displacement of IDPs in the last three months is security and human rights concerns, followed by natural disasters. According to the CBPM survey conducted in June, 50% of the IDPs displaced in the last three months expressed to return due to safety and family considerations, while 33% indicated that they will remain in the current location, and 17% are uncertain about whether to return, integrate, or move onward, mainly due to overall security situation, economic hardship, children’s education, natural disasters and lack of humanitarian assistance.
- According to the CBPM survey conducted in June, 34% of IDPs, and refugee returnees were uncertain about returning to their places of origin due to children not being able to access education, women and girls not being able to move around freely, economic hardship, and lack of access to humanitarian assistance.

- **50 % of FGD participants** noted that their communities have received new arrivals. These include returnees deported from Pakistan and Iran, as well as families displaced by floods, drought, and security issues.

