

AFGHANISTAN MONTHLY PROTECTION MONITORING SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2024





9,304 assessments conducted in November.

63,379 persons reached.



6% Decrease of total assessments compared to October.



Conducted across **120 districts** in **31 provinces**.



27% of interviewed households are headed by women. Out of the overall household members, **52%** are female, of which **31%** are girls, and **61%** are children.



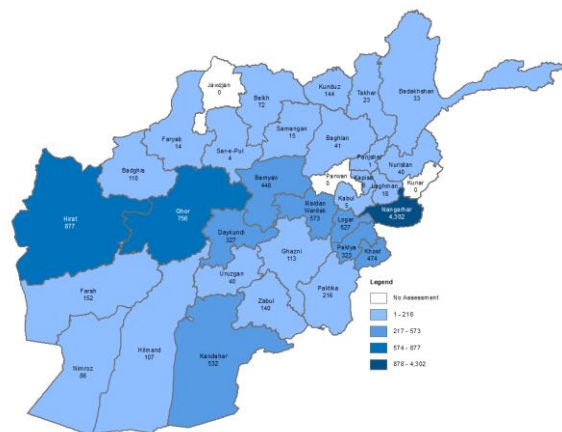
16% heads of households with **disabilities**.

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 feed into the [Afghanistan Protection Cluster's analysis](#) and information products. UNHCR has also developed a public version of its [Community Based Protection Monitoring Dashboards](#), which will enhance transparency and accessibility for all stakeholders. **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.

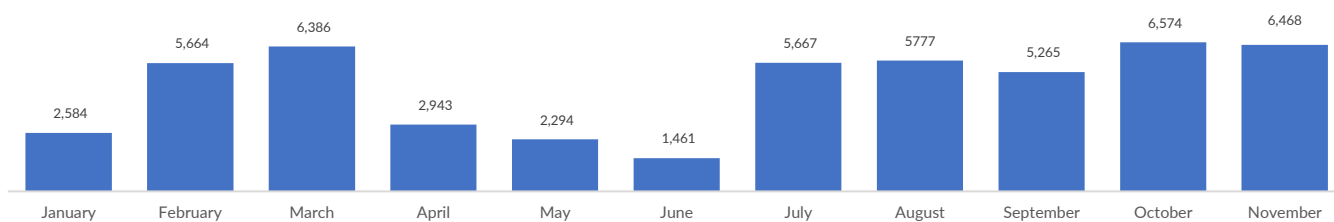
KEY POINTS

- **Women and girls** continue to face significant challenges in accessing basic services and assistance, reflecting their systemic discrimination and movement restrictions.
- **Among the surveyed population in November, 62% of head of households** reported experiencing one or more forms of vulnerabilities, indicating 2% decrease compared to October.
- **Food assistance** was the most crucial need highlighted by surveyed households, followed by Clothing/NFI services.
- **Many families reported having resorted to harmful coping mechanisms**, such as borrowing money, selling assets, stop sending children to school and engage them in labor work that imply serious child protection risks.

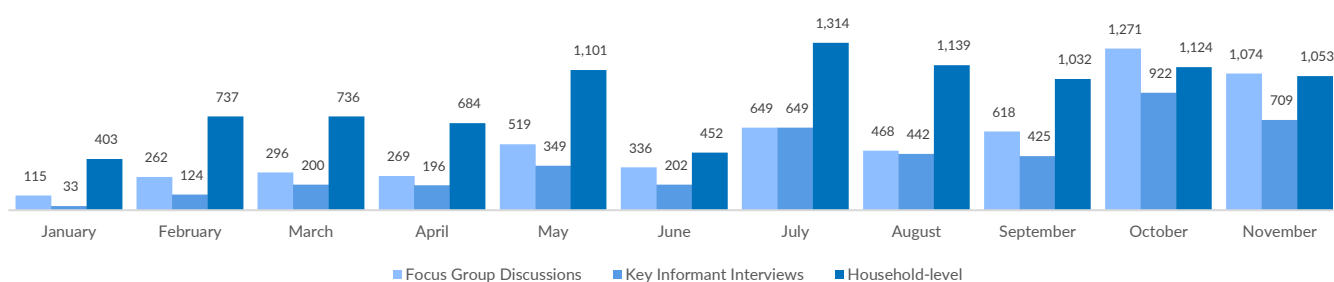


OVERVIEW OF THE DATA COLLECTED

RHAF Assessments (household-level)

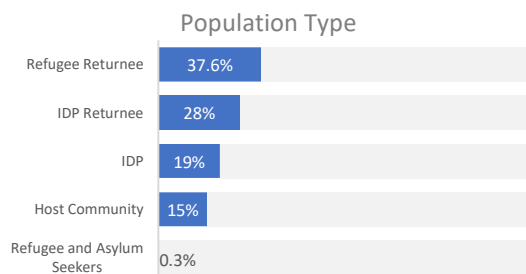


CBPM Assessment



UNHCR conducted 9,304 assessments in November 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 **refugee returnees**, followed by IDP returnees and IDPs, reflecting UNHCR's focus on the specific protection issues that Afghans face upon their return.
- Across all assessment modalities, **UNHCR reached 63,379 individuals** in November, primarily women and children. Women headed households account for 23% of the interviews, indicating a 6% decrease compared with October.
- 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



62% with vulnerabilities



47% experienced stress affecting their day-to-day life.



16% heads of households with disabilities

- According to the RHAF survey conducted in November, **62% of heads of households have some form of vulnerability** such as persons with disabilities, persons with life-threatening health issues, women at risk, female headed households, children at risk, elderly persons at risk, and people with specific

physical protection needs. These findings are supported by the CBPM household assessments, which also point to 6% of the households surveyed being headed by widows (showing an increase of 1% from the previous month) and 8% by older persons or children (increase by 2% from the previous month).

- **According to the CBPM survey conducted in November, 47% of respondents indicated that they or their family members had experienced feelings of stress that affected their day-to-day life.** While this is a 4% decrease from the previous month, the results point to a high prevalence of MHPSS issues among the surveyed population. The main stressors identified were lack of employment and severe economic hardship, food insecurity and unavailability or lack of access to services, alongside child labor, school dropout, physical health problems, community tension, denial of services and opportunities, denied access to education, armed conflict, family violence, forced marriage and physical and emotional abuse in the family. As a result of experiencing stress, 38% of the respondents indicated that they had observed **behavioral changes** in the household (same as previous month), which included family members appearing sad and stressed, loss of appetite, eating disorder, aggressiveness, self-isolation, and thoughts of self-harm and suicidal tendencies.
- Vulnerabilities were also high among household members, pointing to the **multi-faceted protection risks that Afghan families face.** The main vulnerabilities observed among the head of households under the RHAf include persons with disabilities (18%), persons with life-threatening health issues (17%), women at risk (15%), Female headed households (14%), children at risk (13%), elderly persons at risk (10%), and people with specific physical protection needs (6%). CBPM data also points to high rates of school dropouts (37%) among surveyed families due to a lack of financial support by families and the engagement of children in child labor. This has decreased by 9% from the previous month. Life-threatening health issues (16%), age (11%), and legal protection and security needs (6%), are among other risks and vulnerabilities pointed out by the CBPM respondents. **CBPM monitors have also observed tension or violence in 16% of the households** affecting predominantly children (48%), women (33%), older persons (13%) as well as persons with disabilities (6%).

SAFETY & FREEDOM



44% mentioned community areas **off-limits for women and girls.**

- **44 % of the heads of households indicated that there are places in the community that women and girls cannot access,** highlighting the continued 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, clinics, water points, and latrines.
- The **main reasons for movement limitations** include discrimination, harassment, and intimidation in public areas, lack of identity and civil documents, mahram requirements, and safety concerns related to debts and social and cultural barriers.

CIVIL DOCUMENTATION



34% reported barriers **accessing legal services.**

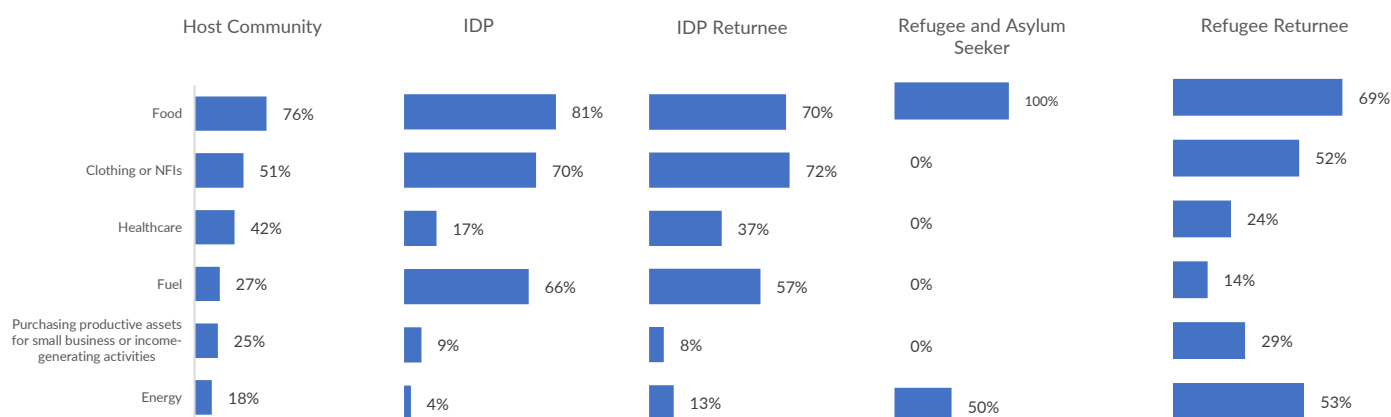
- **Lack of civil documentation** continues to be a key concern raised by household members surveyed. **Women and children are by far the most affected population groups. Refugees, IDPs and undocumented returnees display significantly higher rates (82%, 75% and 68%, respectively),** while the percentage of refugee returnees and IDP returnees is lower (64% and 37%, respectively). Considering 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 e-Tazkera**, followed by paper Tazkera, passport, birth certificate, marriage certificates and other certificates. The main reason is that these documents were never obtained. The households interviewed also lacked knowledge about the procedures, the importance of these documents (indicating that the documents are not needed), unaffordable fees, re-issuance problems, destruction of the documents, expiration, and concerns over personal safety.
- The **CBPM survey conducted in November indicates** that legal assistance projects were more effectively implemented and reached more people compared to the last months. Compared to October, the trend in CBPM assessments shows a 4% decrease in barriers faced by respondents in accessing legal assistance, including civil documentation and HLP. The high cost, unavailability of services, the lack of information on services lack of identity documents and lack of transportation 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 and property ownership disputes.

NEEDS PRIORITIZATION, ACCESS TO SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

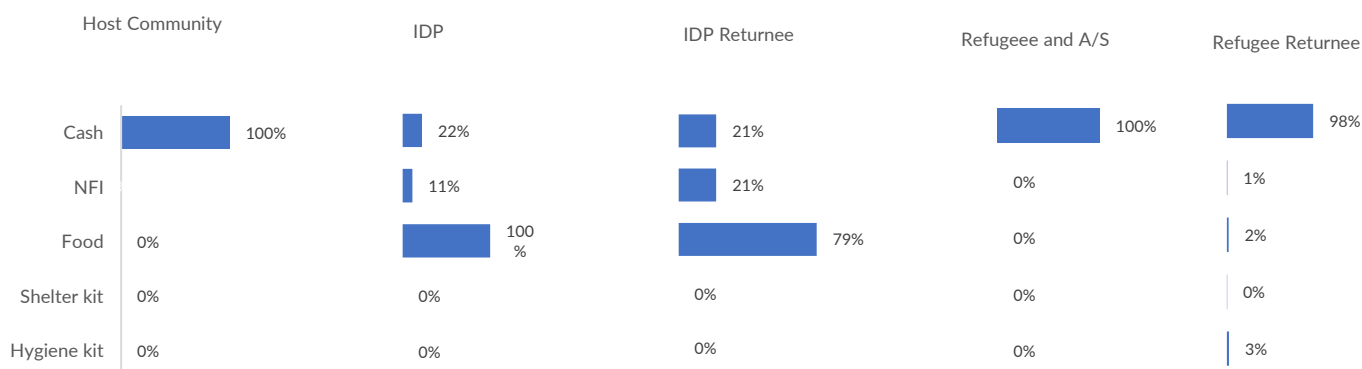


75% mentioned **food** as the most pressing need.

Top Needs



Assistance provided



- Food assistance** continues to be the most crucial need prioritized by households surveyed under the RHAF, followed by clothing/NFI, fuel, healthcare, energy, purchasing productive assets to run a small business, and shelter.
- The vulnerability analysis of the RHAF data for November revealed that despite the assistance provided, **87% of the surveyed households are still in need of humanitarian assistance**. Notably, 98% of refugee returnees surveyed in November have received cash assistance.
- The vulnerability analysis is confirmed by the CBPM findings, which show 90% of all households reported not receiving food assistance in the past three months, mainly due to lack of knowledge about eligibility criteria and procedures, not being assessed for assistance, and discrimination or exclusion by the community leaders. The percentage is even higher among female respondents (93%) than male respondents (87%), pointing to the heightened economic vulnerability of women. **Respondents also face challenges accessing MHPSS services and drinking water**, with 41% and of households respectively needing access to these essential services. 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 undocumented returnees are particularly affected by overcrowded shelters. Other shelter-related concerns include damaged shelter, lack of privacy and protective walls and doors, exposure to the natural environment (weather), and exposure to security (due to location).
- Overall, women and girls continue to face significant challenges in accessing the most basic services**, reflecting 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.

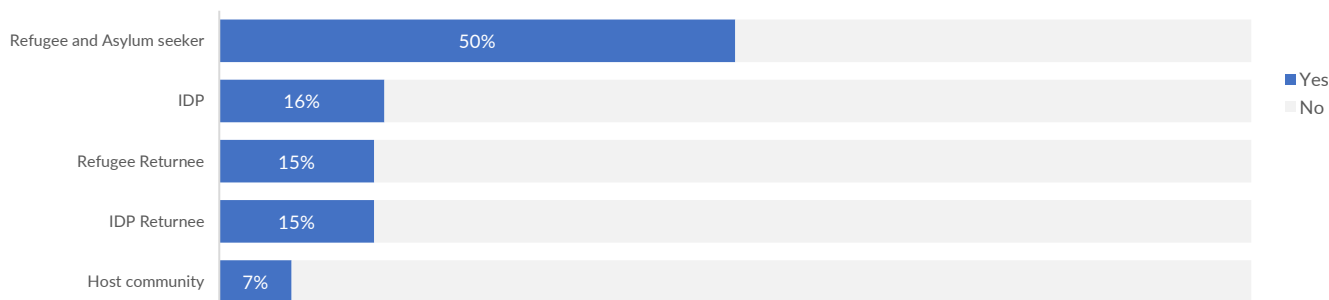
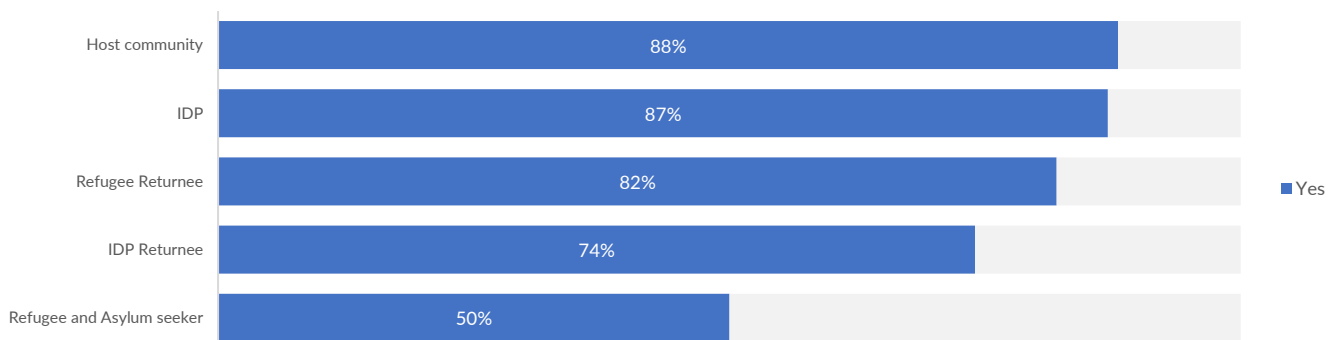
LIVELIHOODS AND COPING STRATEGIES



84% reported selling assets to meet vital needs.



87% struggled to cover **daily living expenses** (food, rent, and other basic needs)

Are you able to work and cover your expenses (food, rent, etc.) on a daily basis?

Did you or any of your household member sold any assets including livestock, jewelry, furniture, electronics, etc?


- According to RHAF survey, 88% of Host communities followed by IDP (87%), Refugee Returnees (82%), IDP Returnees (74%) and Refugee and Asylum Seekers (50%) revealed that their household members sold the assets and resorted negative coping mechanisms such as selling livestock, jewelry, furniture, and other home essential appliances to meet their life 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 returnees and undocumented returnees surveyed. **Other coping mechanisms** identified were selling assets (84% of RHAF respondents and 62% of CBPM respondents have resorted to this measure), child labor, skipping meals or reducing meal sizes, engaging in hazardous work, or relocating family members abroad.
- According to the CBPM findings, a significant number of the surveyed respondents indicated that their **families had adopted harmful practices due to acute poverty and financial reasons**. These included skipping meals, engaging children in labor, including sending them to neighboring countries to work, migrating abroad, and arranging early marriages for their children and contracted child workers given to landlord to alleviate the financial burden. 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


75% engaged in informal income-generating activities.

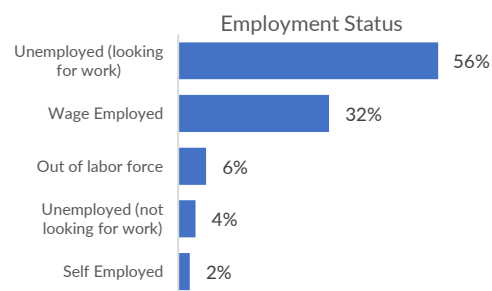


63% relied on financial support from relatives.



56% are unemployed.

- **According to the RHAF survey conducted in November**, over 56% of households are unemployed, 96% have accrued debts, and 32% rely on daily labor, with whatever income generated usually spent on essential needs and debt repayment. 87% of the surveyed households could not afford daily living 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 eroded 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



53% of all IDPs refer to **natural disaster** as top reason for their displacement. **Security concerns (armed conflict)** are the secondary reason for those displaced within the last three months.

- **According to the CBPM survey conducted in November**, the main reasons for the displacement of IDPs in the last three months were natural disasters followed by security concerns, economic reasons, and community tension.
- **According to the CBPM survey conducted in November**, 38% of the IDPs displaced in the last three months expressed to return to their original places due to safety and family considerations, while 23% indicated that they would remain in the current location and 38% are uncertain about whether to return, integrate, or relocate, mainly due to overall security situation, economic hardship, lack of services or infrastructure, children’s education, natural disasters, and family.
- **According to the CBPM survey conducted in November**, 47% 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.

