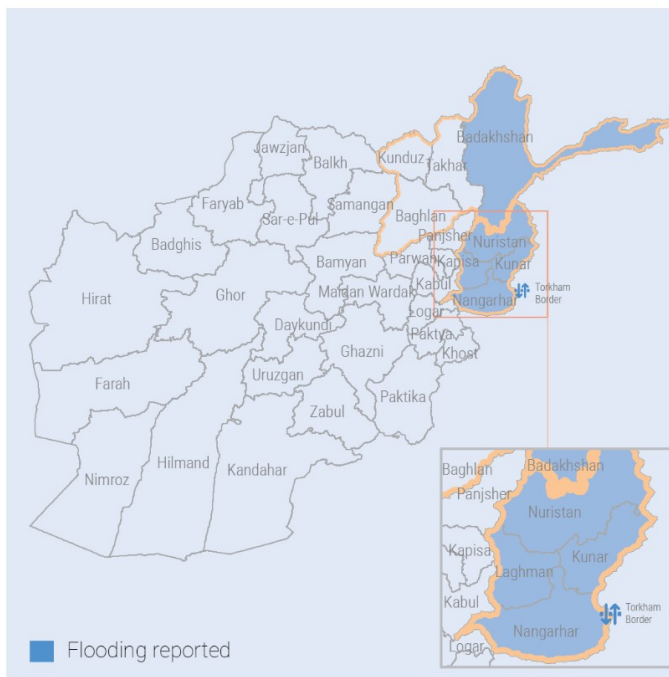


Highlights

- On 15 and 16 July, heavy windstorms, severe rainfall and flash floods struck multiple districts of Badakhshan, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar and Nuristan provinces in Eastern and Northeastern Afghanistan, resulting in 40 fatalities and 251 injuries, and significant infrastructure damage.
- While assessments are ongoing, initial reports indicate that at least 734 families require urgent humanitarian assistance and that 573 houses have suffered damage or destruction.
- The reception center at the Torkham border crossing point, which serves as a main entry point for Afghan returnees, has been heavily hit by the storm and rain. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities and 400 tents have been damaged or destroyed in the nearby Omari camp.
- Across all provinces, initial reports indicate that the urgent needs of affected households are access to food, shelter, health and WASH services. Protection and health risks are further exacerbated by many flood-affected families sheltering outside of destroyed and damaged houses. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services are required for the most affected families.



Map Sources: AGCHO
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Map created 17 July 2024.

Overview

On 15 and 16 July, heavy windstorms, rains and flash floods in the Eastern and Northeastern regions of Afghanistan impacted at least 21 districts across Badakhshan (Jorm district), Kunar (Asadabad, Shegal Marawara, Barkunar, Watapur, Dara-e-Pech districts), Laghman (Mehtarlam, Dawlatshah, Alingar, Alishang, Qarghayi, Badpakh districts), Nangarhar (Jalalabad city, Surkhrod, Behsud, Mohmandara, Batikot, Lalpura districts) and Nuristan (Mandul, Kamdesh, Wama districts) provinces. Initial reports indicate that the large-scale floods have resulted in extensive damage and destruction of private properties and civilian infrastructure. Several roads have been cut or closed, including major connection roads from provincial capitals to districts in Nangarhar, Kunar, and Laghman provinces, creating challenges for accessing affected communities. Damage to the major power line from Kabul caused power outages in many areas in Nangarhar province alone, 60 electricity poles have been reported as destroyed. The reception center at the Torkham border crossing point, which serves as a main entry point for Afghan returnees and has supported large parts of the 650,000 Afghans returned from Pakistan since September 2023 with essential services, has been heavily hit by the storm and rain. WASH facilities and 400 tents have been damaged or destroyed in the nearby Omari camp.

The floods recorded in the Eastern region from 15 July onwards follow similar widespread events affecting Northern, Northeastern, and Western regions of Afghanistan since April 2024. Recurring

catastrophic damage to civilian and public infrastructure has left thousands of vulnerable people without shelter.

Humanitarian Needs and Response

Clusters and their partners are closely monitoring the humanitarian situation together with local authorities for coordinated response efforts while exploring (inter-)Cluster stockpiles and rapid restoration of critical infrastructure to ensure effective delivery of aid.

The **Education** Cluster reported massive damage to classrooms, solar panels, educational equipment and materials, wiring, mobile restrooms and warehouses for public schools as well as CBE classes held in tents across Nangarhar and Kunar provinces. A staff member managing the education information help desk at the Torkham reception center was injured while the desk and equipment were destroyed. Although rehabilitation is urgently needed, initial response efforts have not yet reached CBEs and public schools. The Cluster is awaiting updates on damage to educational facilities in Laghman and Nuristan provinces.

Heavy rains and floods have caused significant damage to civilian infrastructure, including **health** facilities and sanitation systems, leading to power outages and contamination risks. Two WHO-supported hospitals (Nangarhar Infectious Disease Hospital and Drug Addiction Treatment Center (DATC)) sustained partial damage. On 17 July, the Health Cluster conducted an ad-hoc meeting engaging partners and the Provincial Public Health Directorate to streamline response efforts and address any gaps. To facilitate a coordinated response, the Regional Health Cluster Coordination Team participated in several coordination meetings and so far, 13 Cluster partners (AADA, ARCS, JACK, IRC, SCI, ORCD, PU-AMI, IMC, TdH, UNICEF, UNFPA, WORLD, and WHO) have commenced assistance to flood-affected households, including the deployment of nine Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs). WHO supported Nangarhar Regional Hospital and Fatima Zuhra Hospital with medical supplies to provide life-saving health assistance to hundreds of injured individuals. The referral system was activated, with 24 ambulances deployed to transport patients. Mass Casualty Management (MCM) was activated in Nangarhar Regional Hospital and Fatima Zuhra Hospital, with stable patients discharged to accommodate critical cases.

The **Nutrition** Cluster partners have reported disruptions in life-saving nutrition services linked to the damage to the health facility in the Omari camp. While sufficient emergency nutrition supplies are prepositioned with UNICEF and WFP partner warehouses in the affected provinces, a stockout of supplies for the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) is noted. Further, some implementing partners have phased out their nutrition programs in the affected districts. The Cluster is closely following up with its partners and is mapping out the flood impact for ongoing nutrition response in the affected areas.

The **Protection** Cluster has deployed teams to conduct assessments across all areas and is coordinating with its partners on their capacity to respond to the identified needs. Partners have started to set up Child-Friendly Spaces and other psycho-social support facilities. Safety risks to women and girls are found exacerbated due to the lack of privacy, shelter, and WASH and health facilities. Women and girls reportedly feel unsafe at water points, latrine facilities, wood collecting points and open spaces with no or limited shelter spaces. Female-headed households, people living with disability, elderly people and children are particularly impacted and vulnerable to violence. Loss of the main sources of income, livelihood and properties put many families at risk of adopting negative coping mechanisms. The housing situation is fragile with many households sheltering based on no or informal agreements, dependent on their communities or in open spaces. Some areas where the floods occurred are reportedly infested with UXOs/mines posing risks to the people.

The **Shelter** Cluster partners observed the displacements of numerous households and a significant number of homes destroyed. Initial reports indicate that up to 400 families have been affected in Nangarhar, 277 families in Laghman, and 50 families in Kunar provinces. IOM, SCI, IRC, IMC, UNHCR/WAW and other Cluster partners are participating in the joint assessment teams. The Cluster has prepositioned emergency shelter, NFI and other relief items in the region to ensure a timely

response to the emerging needs of the affected people. Following recurring floods in Eastern, Northern, Northeastern and Western regions, a total of more than 16,600 homes have been damaged or destroyed over the past months and both partners. While affected families lack resources to initiate transitional and long-term shelter support, US\$21.8 million is urgently needed to support the most vulnerable families in repairing and rebuilding their homes with dignity before the onset of winter.

The **WASH** Cluster partners examined the damage to facilities in Torkham and found a significant impact on the hygiene and protection infrastructure in the Omari camp, including broken lighting systems in female latrines and destroyed solar panels, shower containers (including water heaters) and hygiene promotion screens. Following an emergency meeting convened by the Deputy Governor on 16 July, partners were requested to complete any ongoing surveys within five days. Pre-positioned WASH supplies have been released to partners in different locations through the core pipeline to ensure a timely response. The Cluster reports sufficient capacity to respond to the current caseloads.

Coordination

OCHA continues to coordinate the emergency response and joint humanitarian needs assessments on behalf of humanitarian partners, in collaboration with de-facto authorities, including the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA).

In the Eastern Region, OCHA liaises with ANDMA and local partners to consolidate information and mobilise inter-agency assessment and response teams. On 14 July, OCHA mobilised the Operations Coordination Team (OCT) in Kunar to ascertain initial reports on the flood impact. On 16 July, an OCT meeting was held jointly for Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman provinces, and agreed to deploy three interagency assessment teams, led by IOM, to assess affected areas in Nangarhar province. Furthermore, three additional teams have been dispatched to Kunar province, and assessments are currently being conducted in Laghman province.