Floods Flash Update (as of 18 of July 2024)

UNHCR partner WAW assessment team surveying affected flood-affected families in Surkh Rod district of Nangarhar. © UNHCR/WAW

Rainstorms and heavy flooding in Afghanistan's Central and Eastern Region, affecting Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar, Nuristan, Panjshir, Kapisa, Kabul and Maidan Wardak provinces on Monday afternoon, 15 July, have left more than 40 people killed, more than 340 injured, many more displaced and properties destroyed, according to officials of the de-facto authorities (DfA). Nangarhar Province remains the most impacted province in the region.

40+	340+	400	277
People killed	People injured	Families affected in Nangarhar	Families affected in Laghman

50	1	4
Families affected in Kunar	UNHCR-built CHC damaged	Refugee Housing Units damaged at the DfA Reception Area in Torkham

Situation Overview

- Acting PDMC officials have stated that the death toll was likely to rise as rescue and assessment teams combed through affected areas in the province, where some 150 people were also receiving treatment for injuries suffered during the rainstorms and flooding.
- The PDMC, which is chaired by the provincial governor of the eastern region, said preliminary assessments indicate that apart from Nangahar, other worst-hit areas include Behsud, Surkh Lal Pur, Bati Kot and Mohamandara districts, all in Nangarhar province.
- Eight inter-agency humanitarian emergency teams, have deployed in the affected areas in the Nangarhar area, Laghman, and Kunar provinces. UNHCR, through partner WAW is represented in these joint assessment teams. Additional teams have been mobilized and will deploy to the affected areas as soon as possible, according to PDMC officials and provincial UN inter-agency coordination teams.
- UN inter-agency teams in Jalalabad, the provincial capital of Nangarhar province, said it could take up to a week for proper assessments to be finalized.
- Acting officials from the DfA's Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) are being rushed to the affected areas to help coordinate assistance and rescue efforts, according to acting PDMC officials in Jalalabad.
- In the Central Region of the country, Kabul, Kapisa, Maidan Wardak and Panjshir Provinces were also affected by the floods, with at least two districts affected in Kabul, two in Kapisa, and six in Panjshir. Initial damage reports indicate loss of agricultural land, homes, and roads. Further, two deaths and 10 injuries have been reported in Kapisa Province.
- Floods recorded in Eastern and Central regions of Afghanistan on 15 July, come on the heels of widespread flood events affecting Northern, Northeastern, and Western regions of the country in May and June. Areas affected in May and June have suffered largescale damage to infrastructure, including roads, bridges, health clinics, schools, and water sources and supply networks, as well as the damage and destruction to over 10,500 homes. Last night's events in Eastern and Central regions have similarly caused loss of life, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure. The recurrence of flood events across Afghanistan are a stark reminder of the country's susceptibility to natural disasters, compounding vulnerabilities faced by populations already facing entrenched poverty, pervasive unemployment, and critical gaps in essential services.

Response:

- Inter-agency teams have been deployed to affected areas to conduct humanitarian assessments to better understand impact of the floods, needs on the ground, and needed response.
- In the Eastern Region, the Eastern Region Protection Cluster (ERPC), including DRC, IRC, WAW/UNHCR, and SCI, are participating in inter-agency assessments to address the potential protection needs. Assessments have been initiated in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces.
- UNHCR has NFI stockpiles ready for response in the Eastern Region, with in-kind assistance to be made available for distribution as required and based on the assessment reports.
- In the Central Region, an inter-agency assessment team composed of IOM, DRC, ANDMA, acting representative of the district governor, ARADA and DACAAR, was conducted in Kalakan District of Kabul province on 17 July. Assessment outcomes indicate that five homes were partially damaged.
- Inter-agency assessments are continuing. On 18 July in Surobi district of Kabul, conducted by IOM, UNHCR partner WSTA, ANDMA, acting representative of the district governor, ARADA, DRC, and DACAAR.
- On Sunday 21 July, the inter-agency assessment is expected to expand to Kapisa province.
- **The Protection Cluster** partners have deployed teams to conduct assessments in all locations affected by the floods, with response planning pending survey findings. The Cluster is in tandem coordinating with partners on response capacity.
- Initial findings and observations indicate heightened safety risks faced by women and girls, including lack of privacy, shelter, shade, accommodation, WASH, and health facilities.
- Women-headed households, people with disabilities, elderly people and children are equally impacted. Most families have lost their sources of income, i.e. loss of crops, fields and land, loss and damage to assets, and small businesses, which is likely to push them into adopting negative coping mechanisms.
- Returnees and forcibly displaced individuals have also been impacted.
- In affected areas, some families are renting housing based on verbal agreements, while others are living in open spaces, renting with no agreement, staying with family members or friends, or living in vacant land.
- Women and girls have indicated feeling unsafe at water points, latrine facilities, wood collecting points, and open spaces with no shelter.
- Further, some areas affected by recent floods are reportedly contaminated with UXOs/mines, posing hazardous risks to civilians.
- Affected individuals have reported lacking information on available services, loss and damage to civil documentation, loss of personal property and cash.
- Protection Cluster partners have set up Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and other PSS counseling facilities, as MHPSS needs are increasing.

Hours before devastating flash floods hit large areas of Eastern and Central Afghanistan, Saifurahman and relatives had been celebrating the birth of a granddaughter, Roqia just three days earlier.

Read Story

- Shelter Cluster **partners** have observed that the rainstorms and heavy flooding in Afghanistan's Eastern Region, affecting Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar, and Nuristan provinces on Monday afternoon, have resulted in more than 35 fatalities, over 230 injuries, numerous displacements, 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. Shelter Cluster partners, including IOM, SCI, IRC, IMC, UNHCR/WAW, and others, are participating in the joint assessment teams deployed to the affected areas.
- The Shelter Cluster has also prepositioned emergency shelter, NFI, and other relief items in the region to ensure a timely response to the emerging needs of the affected people.
- Nonetheless, the floods recorded in Eastern region on 15 July follow widespread similar events affecting Northern, Northeastern, and Western regions of the country since April 2024, that have caused catastrophic damage, and left thousands without shelter. Across the country, more than 16,600 homes have been affected, including over 5,000 homes destroyed and an additional 11,600 sustaining damage.
- The situation remains dire, with both partners and affected families lacking resources to initiate transitional and long-term shelter support. USD 21.8 million is urgently needed to support the most vulnerable families in repairing and rebuilding their homes with dignity. With the winter season fast approaching, the window for delivering construction activities is closing.