

Alert note

Heavy Rain and Snowfall, Afghanistan. January 23, 2026

Completed by: CWSA
 Date completed: 03, 02, 2026
 Forum: ACT Sub Regional Forum - Afghanistan

Type of emergency: Heavy Rain and Snowfall, Eastern Afghanistan, 2026
 Date of emergency (if rapid onset): January 23. 2025

1. The nature of the emergency

Recent heavy rainfall and snowfall across Afghanistan have caused significant human and material losses. [According to the](#) Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)¹, over 60 people have died, more than 110 have been injured, at least 458 houses have been damaged, and approximately 360 families have been affected nationwide.

The eastern provinces, particularly Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kunar, have been severely impacted. Initial reports from Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA) indicate at least 11 fatalities, over 41 injuries, 48 livestock losses, and damage to more than 426 households. IDP camps established after the recent earthquake in Kunar have also been affected, increasing vulnerabilities among displaced families.

Rapid needs assessments are currently underway in Kunar, led by IOM with CWSA participation, while CWSA is leading the assessment in Laghman.

Preliminary findings from joint assessments with IOM, WFP, UNICEF, ANDMA, and other partners highlight urgent needs for shelter rehabilitation, WASH services, health support, cash assistance for heating and fuel, multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), and maintenance of existing water systems.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

Recent heavy rainfall and snowfall across Afghanistan have resulted in significant human and material losses, particularly in the eastern provinces of Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar, and Nuristan. Based on initial assessments, this is considered a **Small to medium-scale emergency**, affecting both rural and mountainous communities, including displaced populations living in temporary IDP camps in Kunar. According to the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) more than 60 people have lost their lives, over 110 have been injured, and at least 458 houses have been damaged nationwide, with approximately 360 families directly affected.

In the eastern provinces, preliminary reports indicate at least 11 fatalities, more than 41 injuries, loss of livestock, and damage to over 426 households. Three temporary IDP camps in Kunar, established after the recent Kunar earthquake have also been affected, further exacerbating vulnerabilities among displaced families.

The affected population includes women, children, elderly, and other vulnerable groups who are particularly exposed to cold and have limited access to essential services. The emergency has disrupted livelihoods through loss of livestock and interruption of income sources, and damaged homes have left families with urgent shelter needs. While some tents collapsed due to heavy snowfall and need to be replaced.

Rapid needs assessments led by OCHA and IOM, with CWSA's participation in Kunar and leading in Laghman, indicate urgent priorities including shelter rehabilitation, WASH services, health support, and cash assistance for heating and fuel. Assessment teams suggesting targeted rehabilitation and cash-based support should be prioritised over large-scale in-kind distributions. Short-term consequences

¹ [Afghanistan: Heavy snow, rainfall kill 61, injure 110, authorities say | AP News](#)

include immediate needs for shelter, heating, WASH, and health interventions, while long-term impacts may include further disruption of livelihoods, increased protection risks, and challenges in restoring damaged homes and infrastructure. Figures are expected to increase as assessments are still ongoing.

3. Local and national capacity

In the affected provinces of Nangarhar, Laghman, and Kunar, local response is coordinated by the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA). They are supported by community leaders, CDC members, and volunteers who provide immediate assistance and help connect people to local services. UN agencies, INGOs, and CWSA, with staff on the ground, are supporting needs assessments and providing technical guidance.

At the national level, the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) leads overall coordination and resource mobilisation, while agencies such as OCHA and IOM provide additional assessment and coordination support. These structures demonstrate strong existing capacity to respond, but gaps remain, especially in remote and snowbound areas.

Vulnerable groups, including displaced families, women, and the elderly, still require additional support. CWSA is actively involved in rapid assessments and has capacity in shelter rehabilitation, provision of WASH & health services, psycho-social support and cash assistance. Coordination with local and national authorities and partners strengthens the response, but further support is needed to ensure all affected communities are reached. CWSA is committed to ensuring that its interventions are **genderresponsive, survivorcentered, and aligned with national and cluster strategies**, while prioritising the most vulnerable groups, including women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

4. Key needs and gaps

The affected communities urgently require support in several critical areas. Shelter is a top priority, including rehabilitation of damaged homes and tents, as well as reinstallation of collapsed tents in IDP camps. Cash assistance is also urgently needed to help families meet immediate winter needs, including heating, fuel, and other essential items. Safe water supply and hygiene items are required to maintain WASH services, while medical support is essential to address injuries and cold-related illnesses.

Significant gaps remain including Temporary shelters, winter supplies, and transport logistics are limited, and vulnerable groups including displaced families, women, children, and the elderly may not be fully reached. Coordination and coverage in some high-altitude or isolated areas are also insufficient, leaving communities at continued risk.

There are clear opportunities to strengthen the response and reduce hardship. Targeted cash-based assistance can address urgent heating and livelihood needs, while shelter rehabilitation and WASH support can help prevent further suffering. Strengthened coordination between local authorities, ANDMA, UN agencies, and INGOs will be critical to reach vulnerable populations in hard-to-access areas and ensure that the response meets the most pressing needs. There is also a need to establish services for the protection and safety for women and girls affected by the crisis and living in unsafe conditions and shelters

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	X
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise
Community World Service Asia	Kunar, Nangarhar and Laghman	Emergency Response, Early Recovery and Development

5. Potential responses

Community World Service Asia (CWSA), a humanitarian and development organisation, has been working in Afghanistan since 1998 with its headquarters in Kabul and active offices in Nangarhar, Kunar, Bamyan and Herat. Partnering with governments, academia, multilateral bodies, and NGOs,

CWSA is actively engaged in the humanitarian response to the extreme winter conditions affecting earthquake-impacted communities in Afghanistan. As a member of joint assessment teams alongside OCHA, IOM, WFP, UNICEF, ANDMA, and other partners, CWSA is contributing to impacted communities in Afghanistan. As a member of joint assessment teams alongside OCHA, IOM, WFP, UNICEF, ANDMA, and other partners, CWSA is contributing to real-time data collection, community engagement, and coordinated planning. We are committed to ensuring that our interventions are **gender responsive, survivor-responsive, survivor-centered, and aligned with national and cluster strategies**, while prioritising the most vulnerable groups, including women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

- **Shelter Rehabilitation:** Support reconstruction and reinforcement of damaged shelters and tents in affected IDP camps and villages.
- **WASH Interventions:** Provide latrines, repair water supply systems, and ensure safe access to clean water.
- **Health Support:** Deliver medicines for measles and TB awareness, strengthen mental health and psychosocial services, and coordinate with health clusters to address acute respiratory infections.
- **Cash Assistance:** Provide Multi-purpose cash (MPCA) and Cash for winterisation to support heating, fuel, and other urgent winter needs.
- **Winterisation Kits:** Distribute stoves, heaters, and supplementary winterisation materials where gaps are identified.
- **Protection Services:** Establish and strengthen Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) and ensure protection measures for vulnerable groups.
- **Livelihoods & Resilience:** Initiate vocational skills training to support long-term resilience and recovery.
- **Quality, Accountability & Safeguarding Reinforcement:** Upholding dignity, inclusion, and community engagement throughout the response

Families displaced by the earthquake in Afghanistan now face deadly winter storms with little protection. This support can help provide shelter, warmth, and lifesaving assistance to those most at risk.

CWSA is participating in the inter-agency humanitarian assessment and deployed teams in Kunar to be part of the joint assessment and in Laghman leading the assessment with the partners including WFP, DACAR, PUMI.

Other ACT members also have presence in Kunar province. CWSA has an active operational presence through its offices in Nangarhar and Kunar, with deployed field staff, and is part of the joint assessment teams in Kunar led by IOM, while leading the Rapid Needs Assessment in Laghman. CWSA is currently implementing emergency projects providing cash assistance, in-kind food assistance, winterisation, and MHPSS support to earthquake-affected communities.

CWSA plans to provide \$170 MPCA per household to affected families, following identified needs and cluster guidelines.