

Flood Update #4:

Central and Eastern Region

Flash Floods

20 August 2026



Salem, 13, use clean water from a UNICEF WASH facility in Parun, Nuristan.

Situation Overview

- **A series of flash flood events between 20 July and 3 August affected central and eastern Afghanistan, resulting in casualties, damage to houses and critical infrastructure, and disruption to essential services and livelihoods.**
- In the **Eastern Region (ER)**, **Parun district in central Nuristan Province**, was among the most **severely affected areas**. Preliminary reports¹ indicate **24 fatalities and 125 injuries**, with additional individuals reported missing. The floods destroyed or damaged **120 houses** and affected one private health facility, local markets, bridges, roads, flood protection walls, agricultural land and water supply networks, disrupting livelihoods and access to safe drinking water.
- **Subsequently, on 3 August, a second flash flood struck Barg-e-Matal district in eastern Nuristan**, affecting **191 houses**, which were either destroyed or damaged. The floods also damaged bridges, roads, flood protection walls, agricultural land and water supply networks, further disrupting livelihoods and constraining access to safe drinking water and essential services.
- In the **Central Region (CR)**, **flash floods across nine provinces**² resulted in **two fatalities and six injuries**. A total of **316 houses were affected**, impacting **2,057 people**. Approximately **1.6 million square meters of agricultural land were damaged**, around **300 livestock were killed**, and **17 schools sustained damage**, further affecting livelihoods and access to basic services.
- A separate flooding incident in **Paktia province** destroyed **11 houses** and damaged agricultural land. On 12 August, humanitarian partners carried out a joint emergency response to affected communities.
- The recent flash floods may also have **displaced explosive ordnance (EO) or exposed previously buried hazards**, increasing protection risks for affected communities and humanitarian personnel operating in flood-affect areas.³


627
HOUSES
AFFECTED


131
INJURED


26
FATALITIES

¹OCHA Flash Update: Flooding in Eastern Afghanistan: Flash Update #2: Flooding in Eastern Afghanistan (22 to 23 July 2026) - Afghanistan | ReliefWeb

²Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Wardak, Logar, Panjshir, Ghazni, Paktia, Paktika

³OCHA Flash Update: Flooding in Eastern Afghanistan: Flash Update #3: Flooding in Eastern Afghanistan (as of 28 of July 2026) - Afghanistan | ReliefWeb

Assessments

UNICEF and partners were on the ground within 24 hours of the flash floods conducting rapid assessments and launching a multisectoral response covering health, nutrition, WASH, and child protection. In the Northern Region (NR), initial assessment identified one household with partial flood damage requiring emergency shelter and non-food item (NFI) assistance, to which an NGO provided the necessary support in coordination with the Provincial Operations Coordination Team (OCT).

Eastern Region (ER) Update:

- A total of 311 houses were affected, impacting 2,408 people.
- Sixteen schools sustained damage, including boundary walls, classrooms, and retaining walls, affecting 508 schoolchildren.
- There were 24 fatalities (22 men and 2 girls) and 125 injuries (7 per cent women, 93 per cent men).
- All health facilities remain operational with adequate essential medicines, and all injured individuals have received treatment and have been discharged.

Central Region (CR) Update:

- A total of 316 houses were affected, impacting 2,057 people (688 girls, 610 boys, 395 women, and 364 men), including 61 pregnant women.
- 17 schools sustained damage, including boundary walls, classrooms and retaining walls, disrupting access to education for 11,114 students (2,218 girls, 8,896 boys).
- Fifteen water points, including hand pumps, piped water systems, and dug wells, were damaged by flooding.
- All health facilities remain operational with adequate essential medicines, and all injured individuals have received treatment and have been discharged.

UNICEF Response Updates

UNICEF rapidly activated its emergency response across affected areas, working with partners and communities to deliver life-saving assistance. As of 20 August, the response includes the following:

Health

Eastern Region:

- Following the flooding in Parun district, UNICEF's implementing partner, the Afghan Rural Support and Development Organization (ARSDO) established a temporary health camp to ensure the immediate provision of essential health services to affected communities. As the situation stabilized, the camp was closed, with the nearby health facility continuing to provide primary healthcare to flood-affected populations. Ambulance services remain operational in Parun and can be deployed as required.
- Across the temporary health camp and the Comprehensive Health Centre (CHC+) in Parun, more than 100 injured patients (two women and 100 men) received treatment, and over 1,300 people accessed essential health services through the two facilities.
- In eastern Nuristan, following the flooding in Barg-e-Matal district, UNICEF's implementing partner, ARSDO, rapidly established a second temporary health camp near Awlagul village, staffed by five health workers. The camp managed three trauma cases, including one boy under five and two over five years of age. The nearby health facility remains operational, with adequate medical supplies and a functional ambulance available to respond to any additional health needs arising from the floods.

Central Region:

- All health facilities remain functional and adequately stocked with essential supplies, and all injured individuals have received the necessary treatment and have been discharged.
- Community awareness sessions by UNICEF's partner are advising residents to seek care at the nearest health facility should they experience flood-related or seasonal illnesses.



Nutrition

Eastern Region:

- To support the management of acute malnutrition among children in flood-affected areas, UNICEF supplied ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) to the health camp operating in Nuristan.
- During the reporting period, **321 children under five years of age** were screened for acute malnutrition, including **38 children in Laghman (17 girls, 21 boys)** and **283 in Nuristan (151 girls, 132 boys)**. Of those screened, 43 children (27 girls, 16 boys) were identified with wasting and enrolled in treatment.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Eastern Region:

- In Parun District of Nuristan province as a temporary measure, the distribution network in the ER has been connected to an unaffected 60 m³ reservoir supplied by one functioning spring, with water channelled to eight water storage tanks (each with a capacity of 1,500 litres) installed at various locations across the community. A total of 1,200 collapsible jerry cans, together with information, education and communication (IEC) materials to 630 flood affected people across 94 households
- Hygiene promotion sessions have reached approximately 1,100 people (with key messages on safe water handling, sanitation and hygiene practices).
- To support the sustainable restoration of water services, technical assessments, engineering designs, and the Bill of Quantities (BoQ) for the rehabilitation of the damaged water supply system have been completed.
- A contract is currently being processed for the
- rehabilitation and replacement of the damaged infrastructure, restoring access to safe drinking water for the affected population of 7,000.
- In Bargi Matal District of Nuristan province where flash floods damaged the water system serving Awol Gul Village, assessment and engineering designs have been completed. With most of the village destroyed and the majority of residents displaced to nearby villages with WASH services, rehabilitation activities will be initiated following confirmation of population returns. Meanwhile, residents who remain in the village continue to access water through a temporary network connection.
- In Laghman, UNICEF and its partners distributed hygiene kits to 750 flood-affected families, while 260 families were reached in Nangarhar
- Beneficiary households were identified through joint assessment lead by IOM and verified prior to the distribution assistance.

Central Region:

- To address immediate WASH needs across flood affected provinces, UNICEF and partners distributed hygiene kits to all 316 flood-affected households in **Kapisa, Parwan, Paktika, Logar, Ghazni, Kabul, Paktia and Panjshir provinces**, reaching 2,057 people with essential supplies.
- Following reports of damage to 15 water points, UNICEF, in its role as WASH Cluster Lead Agency, together with partners assessed available capacity and facilitated the necessary repairs to restore access to safe water in affected communities.

Child Protection

Eastern Region:

- UNICEF and partners delivered immediate life-saving child protection support through psychological first aid (PFA) and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, reaching 620 children (290 girls,

330 boys) and 160 caregivers. Group counselling was provided to a further 300 children (80 girls, 220 boys), while 16 children (four girls, 12 boys) received individual counselling sessions.

- All 221 identified orphaned children (119 girls, 102 boys) and 17 children (10 girls, 7 boys) separated from their families received specialized services, including MHPSS support. All separated children have since been reunified with their families, and no cases remain outstanding.
- Two dedicated social workers remain on the ground, providing MHPSS services to affected children and families across the flood-affected districts.

Education

Eastern Region:

- Following the floods, UNICEF conducted technical assessments of affected schools to identify immediate needs and rehabilitation requirements. According to the Education Cluster, 35 schools were reportedly affected across the Eastern Region, including 10 in Kunar, 20 in Nangarhar, two in Laghman, and three in Nuristan. One Grade 6 student from Peski village in Parun district was among those killed by the floods.
- UNICEF's technical assessment identified major damage in seven schools, of which five require repair and rehabilitation (two in Nangarhar, two in Laghman, and one in Nuristan). Currently, only one school in Barg-e-Matal district remains closed, affecting 200 students (108 girls and 92 boys). The remaining schools are operational but require minor repairs, including ceiling repairs, solar system repairs, mud clearance, and rehabilitation of surrounding walls.
- To support the continuity of learning, UNICEF conducted assessments to identify immediate education needs and required support measures. As part of the response, 13 tents and 10 recreational kits will be distributed to the affected school in Barg-e-Matal district, while rehabilitation needs have been identified to support the recovery of damaged schools.
- Based on assessment findings, temporary learning spaces are not currently required, as most affected schools remain functional. UNICEF has included school rehabilitation requirements in the Flash Appeal to mobilize resources for repair and recovery efforts.

Central Region:

- Seventeen schools, including 10 in Parwan, five in Logar and two in Paktika, sustained damage to boundary walls, classrooms and retaining walls, disrupting access to education for 11,114 students (2,218 girls and 8,896 boys).
- The Education Cluster, with UNICEF's support, is coordinating with partners to verify needs and inform response planning, recovery interventions and follow-up actions.

Cross-sectoral (Social and Behaviour Change (SBC), Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Eastern Region:

- UNICEF and its partners deployed 16 community mobilizers to support the integrated SBC/RCCE, AAP and PSEA emergency response.
- A total of 13,280 people received life-saving information, including 4,008 women, 4,486 men, 1,876 girls and 2,910 boys.
- 6,640 people were directly engaged through participatory behaviour change activities, including 456 individuals reached through 114 household visits and 6,184 participants engaged through 368 group sessions.
- Through AAP mechanisms, 215 community members raised concerns, primarily related to WASH, shelter, food assistance, non-food items (NFIs) and cash assistance.

- 145 religious leaders and female madrasa teachers were trained on immunization promotion and acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) prevention, including 25 in Parun, 25 in Wama, 45 in Barg-e-Matal and 50 in Kamdish.
- Information, education and communication (IEC) materials were distributed to reinforce key messages on AWD prevention, hygiene practices and immunization.
- Planned activities include training additional community structures, updating the RCCE plan based on emerging WASH findings, and conducting a rapid behavioural assessment to identify AWD transmission pathways and priority actions.

Central Region:

- Hygiene promotion mobilizers reached 948 people (391 women and 557 men) across flood-affected communities with life-saving messages on safe water handling, hygiene practices and disease prevention.
- Separate awareness sessions for women and men were conducted in targeted communities to promote inclusive participation and strengthen community engagement, accountability and access to information throughout the response.

Emergency Non-Food Items Updates

Eastern Region:

- As part of the joint inter-agency response, UNICEF, together with OCHA, IOM, WFP and other partners, distributed 310 family kits and 310 hygiene kits – including seven bars of soap per family (2,170 bars in total) – reaching 2,232 people in Parun and Barg-e-Matal districts of Nuristan province.

Central Region:

- As part of a joint inter-agency distribution conducted with IOM and WFP, UNICEF provided family kits to 90 flood-affected families in Ghazni, Paktika and Paktia provinces, reaching 559 people (180 girls, 166 boys, 114 women, and 99 men).
- Following a joint assessment, 11 additional flood-affected families in Paktia province were identified as requiring NFIs, food assistance and hygiene kits. UNICEF distributed family and hygiene kits to these families on 12 August.

Coordination

UNICEF actively participated in coordination mechanisms at national and sub-national levels to support a timely and coordinated response to the floods. In both the Eastern and Central Regions, Operational Coordination Team (OCT) meetings were convened to review the impact of the floods, coordinate joint needs assessments, and mobilize humanitarian partners for a rapid response. Representatives from UN agencies and humanitarian organizations agreed on priority actions, and joint assessment teams were deployed to affected areas, with UNICEF emergency extenders participating in all assessments.

Regional Team (RT) meetings in both regions also reviewed early recovery and rehabilitation needs, with particular attention to damaged schools and water infrastructure. Available partner capacities and potential support for rehabilitation activities are being assessed and will be further discussed through ongoing coordination mechanisms.

As a key partner in Afghanistan's humanitarian coordination architecture, UNICEF leads the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters, co-leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, and plays a key role in health sector coordination. Through these roles, UNICEF supports joint assessments, information management, response planning and the provision of technical guidance to ensure a coherent and effective humanitarian response.

Gaps and Challenges

- An estimated USD 1.5 million is required to scale up the emergency response, including rehabilitation of water supply systems, education and health facilities.
- Network connectivity remains a persistent challenge in Afghanistan, and the recent flash floods have further disrupted telecommunications services.

This is the final Flash Update on July 2026 flash floods in Afghanistan.

UNICEF will continue to monitor the situation and report any significant developments through its regular reporting channels.

Who to contact for further information:	Dr. Tajudeen Oyewale	Mr. Charles Nzuki	Mr. Daniel Timme
	Representative	Chief of Field Services	Chief of Communications
	UNICEF Afghanistan	UNICEF Afghanistan	UNICEF Afghanistan
	Tel: +93 79 998 7100	Tel: +93 79 998 7119	Tel: +93 79 998 7110
	Email: toyewale@unicef.org	Email: cnzuki@unicef.org	Email: dtimme@unicef.org