

HERAT EARTHQUAKE DISPLACEMENT ASSESSMENT

KEY FINDINGS REPORT ON IDPs

DECEMBER 2023

SCOPE

In early October, four large earthquakes and their aftershocks affected the western province of Herat. Since 23 October, IOM DTM Afghanistan has conducted a household-level assessment to determine the immediate needs and conditions of the affected population. As of 6 December, IOM DTM Afghanistan has covered seven affected districts in Herat, including Gulran, Guzara, Herat, Injil, Karukh, Kushk, and Zindajan. **The following key findings report focuses on data collected among:**

1) New internally displaced persons (IDPs): people who have been displaced for the first time following the earthquake.

2) Secondary IDPs: people who were already displaced before the earthquake and were displaced again due to the earthquake.

While the following population groups were included in the overall assessment, they are not included in the following report:

1) Returned IDPs: people who were IDPs but have since returned to their location of origin. They are not included in the report due to their small sample size (n=24).

2) Non-IDPs: People who are no longer residing in their original compound but have remained within the limits of their village and thus are familiar with the area and have social connections to support their needs, 20,766 non-IDP households in the affected areas were assessed, however, their information is outside the scope of this report and is therefore also omitted.

CONTEXT

The estimated number of IDPs in Herat for 2021 and 2022 was 250,000 individuals according to IOM's Baseline Mobility Assessment Round 16, making it one of the largest IDP hosting provinces in the country. Data from IOM's Multi-Sector Rapid Assessment shows that the districts of Zindajan and Injil were most heavily affected by the earthquake, with roughly half of the population in Zindajan and a third of the population in Injil having to leave their homes. The results of this assessment

show that out of the affected, roughly five per cent are IDPs (new, secondary, or returned) while 95 per cent had to leave their original homes but remained within the limits of their village.

KEY FINDINGS

- Most respondents intend to stay in their current location with their entire households, though new IDPs are slightly less certain about whether to stay or leave compared to secondary IDPs.
- Primary needs among all respondents consist of food and cash most urgently. Following those two items, new IDPs prioritize shelter and secondary IDPs prioritize livelihoods and income.
- Around two-thirds of both new and secondary IDPs cite sleeping items as their primary non-food item need.
- While access to WASH items and facilities is low overall, new IDPs have slightly lower access to WASH and health facilities compared to secondary IDPs, except in regard to latrines.
- Coping mechanisms in response to food shortages are common among both new and secondary IDPs, but new IDPs are more likely to resort to more severe coping mechanisms, like going the whole day without eating, compared to secondary IDPs.
- Most households with children cannot send their children to a functional school due to moderate or severe damage to schools' buildings. This accounts for half of new IDPs (50%) and more three-fourths of secondary IDPs (78%).
- The top three information needs overall were how to register for aid, how to get shelter, and how to get food, however, new IDPs prioritized food while secondary IDPs prioritized registering for aid.
- Respondents most commonly preferred receiving information through community leaders, word of mouth, and community meetings.



A DTM enumerator interviews a respondent in a home damaged by the Herat earthquake. © IOM 2023

METHODOLOGY

Target districts were identified based on a list of affected villages provided by the OCHA information management unit. Assessment indicators were developed by IOM DTM Afghanistan in coordination with the CCCM working group and prioritized based on operational relevance. The final questionnaire was translated into Dari and Pashto by IOM DTM Afghanistan. Random sampling of households within the village list provided by OCHA was used to achieve as representative of a sample as possible. Enumerators underwent a one day online training organized by IOM DTM Afghanistan followed by regular data monitoring via an online platform developed by the DTM team. After data cleaning, the DTM team conducted data analysis, making sure to disaggregate by IDP type (new IDPs and secondary IDPs) to account for bias in the aggregated data due to a much larger sample size among secondary IDPs. For relevant indicators, analysis was also disaggregated by gender and location.

LIMITATIONS

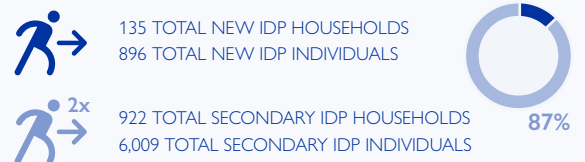
Biases due to self-reporting of household level indicators may exist. Certain indicators may be under-reported or over-reported, due to the subjectivity and perceptions of respondents (especially “social desirability bias”—the documented tendency of people to provide what they perceive to be the “right” answers to certain questions). These biases should be taken into consideration when interpreting findings, particularly those pertaining to sensitive indicators. In addition, due to the lower sample size (n=135) among new IDPs, the data for this group should be considered indicative only. Similarly, findings based on the responses of a subset of the sample population have a lower confidence level and wider margin of error. For example, questions asked only to households with school-aged children produced results of a lower precision level. Findings based on very small subsets of the sample may be indicative only (i.e. not representative to a minimum degree of statistical confidence). Finally, the survey was conducted with one representative from each household who was asked to provide answers on behalf of all individual household members. Thus, intra-household dynamics and biases may be present in the data.

The following analysis represents key indicators and key data disaggregations by gender and IDP type, however, further analysis is available upon request.

HOUSEHOLD PROFILES

	8	Number of assessed districts
	161	Number of assessed villages
	1,057	Number of assessed IDP households
	6.5	Average household size
	49%	Percentage of male respondents
	51%	Percentage of female respondents
	15%	Percentage of female-headed households
	34%	Percentage of households with at least one household member who has a disability
	3%	Percentage of households with an unaccompanied minor
	46%	Percentage of households with a pregnant or lactating woman

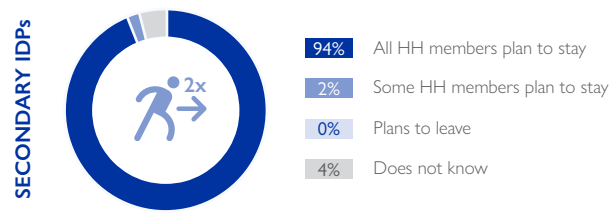
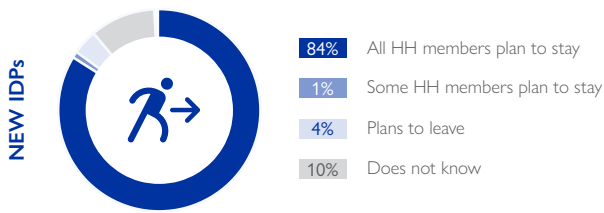
Breakdown of IDP type



A DTM enumerator interviews a respondent in a home damaged by the Herat earthquake. © IOM 2023

MIGRATION INTENTIONS

Plans regarding whether to stay or leave current location

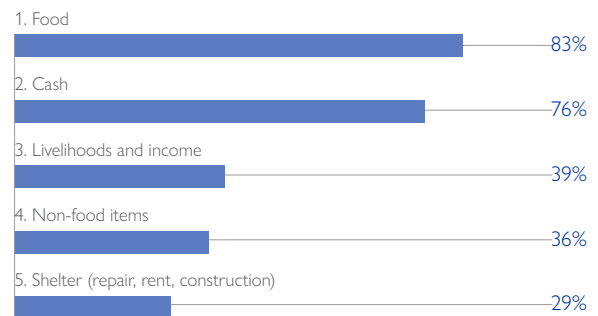
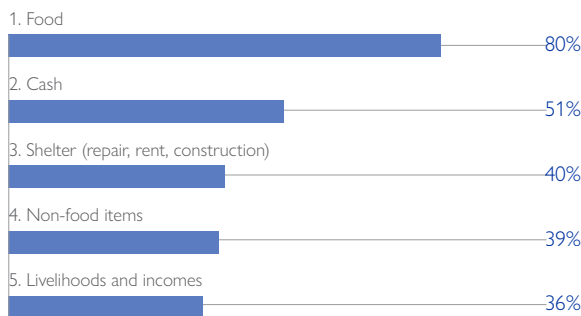


When asked whether their households planned to stay in their current location, the majority of both new and secondary IDP respondents responded affirmatively (84% and 94%, respectively). Uncertainty was marginally more common, however, among new IDP respondents, 10 per cent of whom did not know whether they would stay or leave. The same demographic accounted for four per cent of secondary IDPs.

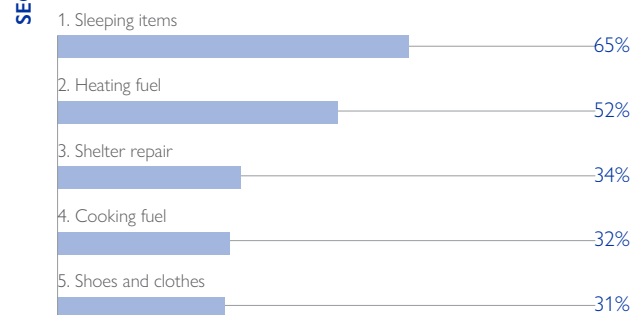
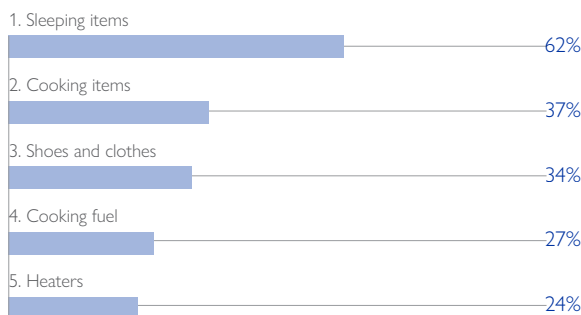
The proportion of those who planned to leave their current location was one per cent overall and consisted of exclusively new IDPs (4% among new IDPs). Secondary IDPs being more certain about their intentions to stay suggests that multiple rounds of displacement may affect decision-making related to intended mobility, perhaps motivating desires for stability by way of staying in their current location.

PRIMARY NEEDS

Top 5 priority needs*



Top 5 non-food items needed but currently not accessible*

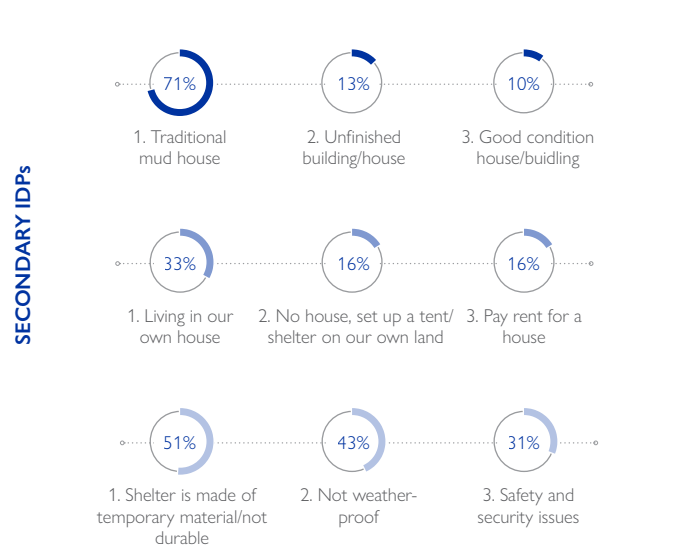
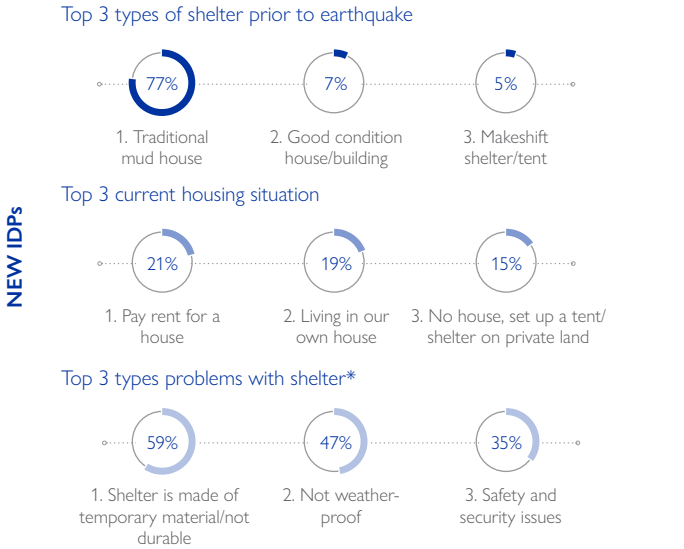


Priority needs among new and secondary IDP households were similar, with both groups citing food as their first need, followed by cash, shelter, non-food items, and livelihoods/incomes. However, secondary IDPs were more likely to require cash compared to new IDPs (76% versus 51%, respectively). This may be related to the effects of extended displacement, specifically the cost of displacement. It should be noted that hygiene items were also a common need, particularly among female respondents (24%).

The non-food item (NFI) required most by both new and secondary IDP households was sleeping items (62% and 65%, respectively). Secondary IDPs were in more need of heating fuel and shelter repair (52% and 34%) compared to new IDPs, who were more likely to cite cooking items (37%) and shoes and clothes (37% and 34%). There was no significant difference between male and female responses regarding priority NFIs.

*Multiple answers possible; sum of percentages may equal more than 100%

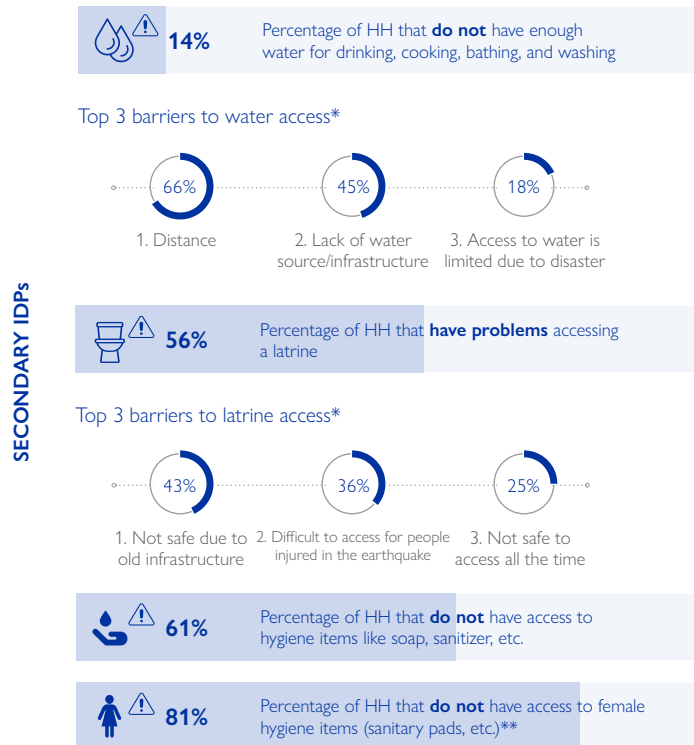
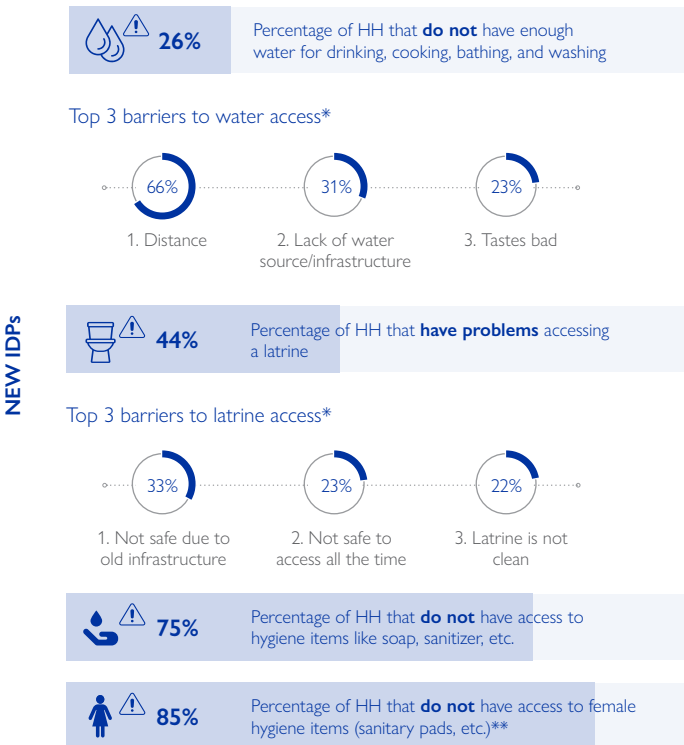
SHELTER



Among both new and secondary IDP respondents, the most common type of housing structure their households lived in prior to the earthquake was a traditional mud house (77% and 71%, respectively). Pre-earthquake housing among secondary IDPs had slightly more variety, including also unfinished buildings (13%), houses or building in good condition (10%), and damaged or partially destroyed houses (5%). Current living situations see new IDP households more commonly in rented accommodation

(21%) compared to secondary IDP households (16%), who more commonly live in an owned house (33% versus 19%, respectively). In both groups, over one out of every ten households live in a makeshift tent or shelter. Regarding problems with their current housing, both new and secondary IDPs report a lack of durability in their housing material, lack of weather-proofing, and safety and security issues as their most common problems.

WASH

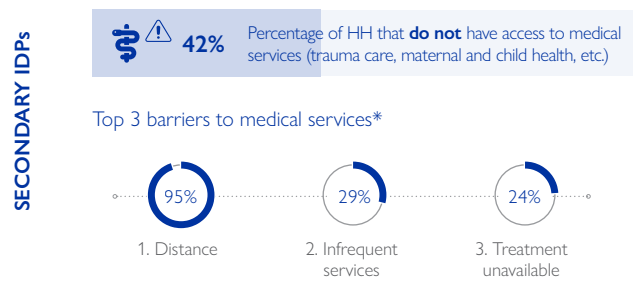
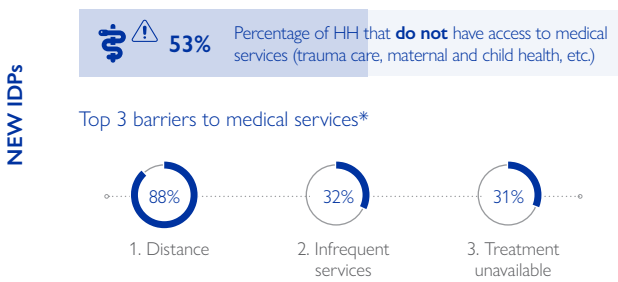


While both new and secondary IDP households face significant barriers to access regarding key WASH items, new IDP households report slightly lower access. A quarter (25%) of new IDP households report lack of access to water for drinking, cooking, bathing, and washing and three-quarters (75%) report lack of access to soap and sanitizer. For both groups, distance to a suitable water source and lack of water infrastructure are the top barriers to usable water.

Lack of access to latrines is slightly higher among secondary IDP households, who report top barriers such as a lack of safety due to old infrastructure (43%), accessibility difficulties for people injured during the earthquake (36%), and lack of consistent safety at the latrines (for example, at night) (25%). New IDP households share these barriers and also cite a lack of cleanliness in latrines (22%). In both groups, most women did not have access to female hygiene items (81% overall).

*Multiple answers possible; sum of percentages may equal more than 100%
**Question was only asked among female respondents.

HEALTH



In regard to health access, new IDP households once again experienced lower access, with half (54%) reporting that they did not have access to medical services including trauma care, maternal and child health, and chronic disease management. the same demographic accounted for 42 per cent of secondary IDPs.

Among both groups, the most prominent barrier to medical services was distance (88% among new IDP households and 95% among secondary IDP households). Other prominent barriers included infrequent services, unavailability of treatment, expense, and the overcrowding of medical facilities.

FOOD SECURITY

Percentage of HH who have had to resort to the following coping mechanisms in response to food shortage in the seven days prior to data collection

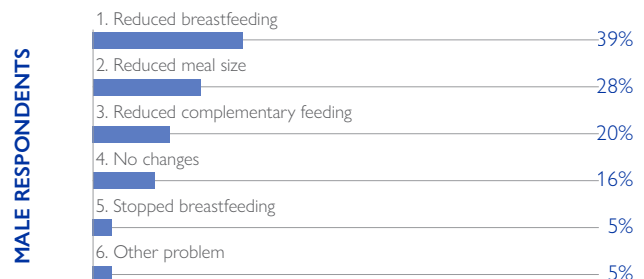
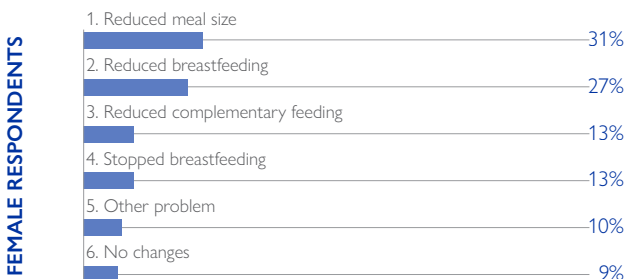
NEW IDPs

Rely on less preferred and less expensive food	97%
Borrow food or rely on help from a friend or relative	71%
Limit portion size at mealtimes	73%
Restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat	49%
Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	59%
Send household members elsewhere to eat	24%
Restrict consumption by women and prioritize other members of the household	34%
Restrict consumption by men and prioritize other members of the household	31%
Everyone in the household went a whole day without eating	27%

SECONDARY IDPs

Rely on less preferred and less expensive food	98%
Borrow food or rely on help from a friend or relative	53%
Limit portion size at mealtimes	80%
Restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat	48%
Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	70%
Send household members elsewhere to eat	15%
Restrict consumption by women and prioritize other members of the household	28%
Restrict consumption by men and prioritize other members of the household	22%
Everyone in the household went a whole day without eating	13%

Changes in feeding of infants and young children*



Households were asked how many times a week they had resorted to particular coping mechanisms in response to food shortages. The above table lists the coping mechanisms in order from least to most severity. Overall, almost all households had to rely on less preferred or less expensive food in the week prior to their interview (97% overall). According to respondents, households resorted to this coping mechanism 5.2 days out of the week prior on average. The majority of new IDP households also had to borrow food from a friend or relative (71%) and limit portion sizes at mealtimes (73%). Most secondary IDP households also resorted

to limited portion sizes at mealtimes (80%) as well as reducing the number of meals eaten per day (70%). Limiting portion sizes was reported to happen more frequently throughout the week at an average of 2.3 days overall, while other less severe coping mechanisms happened around once a week. More severe coping mechanisms happened less frequently, but were more likely to happen among new IDP households, especially that of having the entire household go a whole day without eating, of which over a quarter (27%) of new IDP households experienced.

*Multiple answers possible; sum of percentages may equal more than 100%

INFRASTRUCTURE

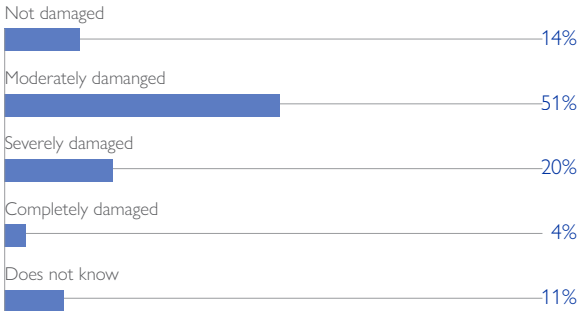
SCHOOLS



50%

Percentage of HH with children attending school whose school stopped functioning due to the earthquake

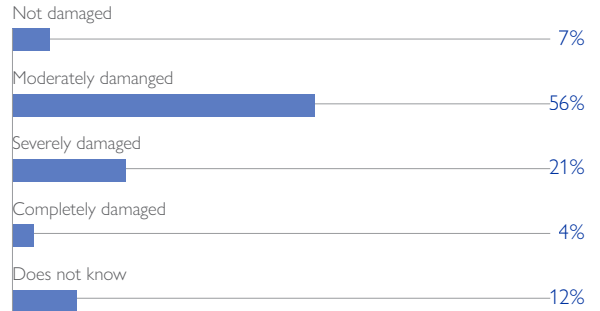
Level of damage whose children's school is no longer functioning



78%

Percentage of HH with children attending school whose school stopped functioning due to the earthquake

Level of damage whose children's school is no longer functioning



MARKETS

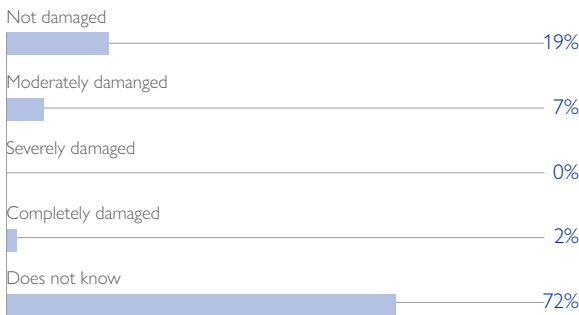
NEW IDPs



32%

Percentage of HH that **do not** have access to a functional market

Level of damage to local market among those who report no access



SECONDARY IDPs



31%

Percentage of HH that **do not** have access to a functional market

Level of damage to local market among those who report no access



NETWORK



12%

Percentage of HH that **do not** have access to a functional phone



6%

Percentage of HH that **do not** have access to phone network in their area



7%

Percentage of HH that **do not** have access to a functional phone



4%

Percentage of HH that **do not** have access to phone network in their area

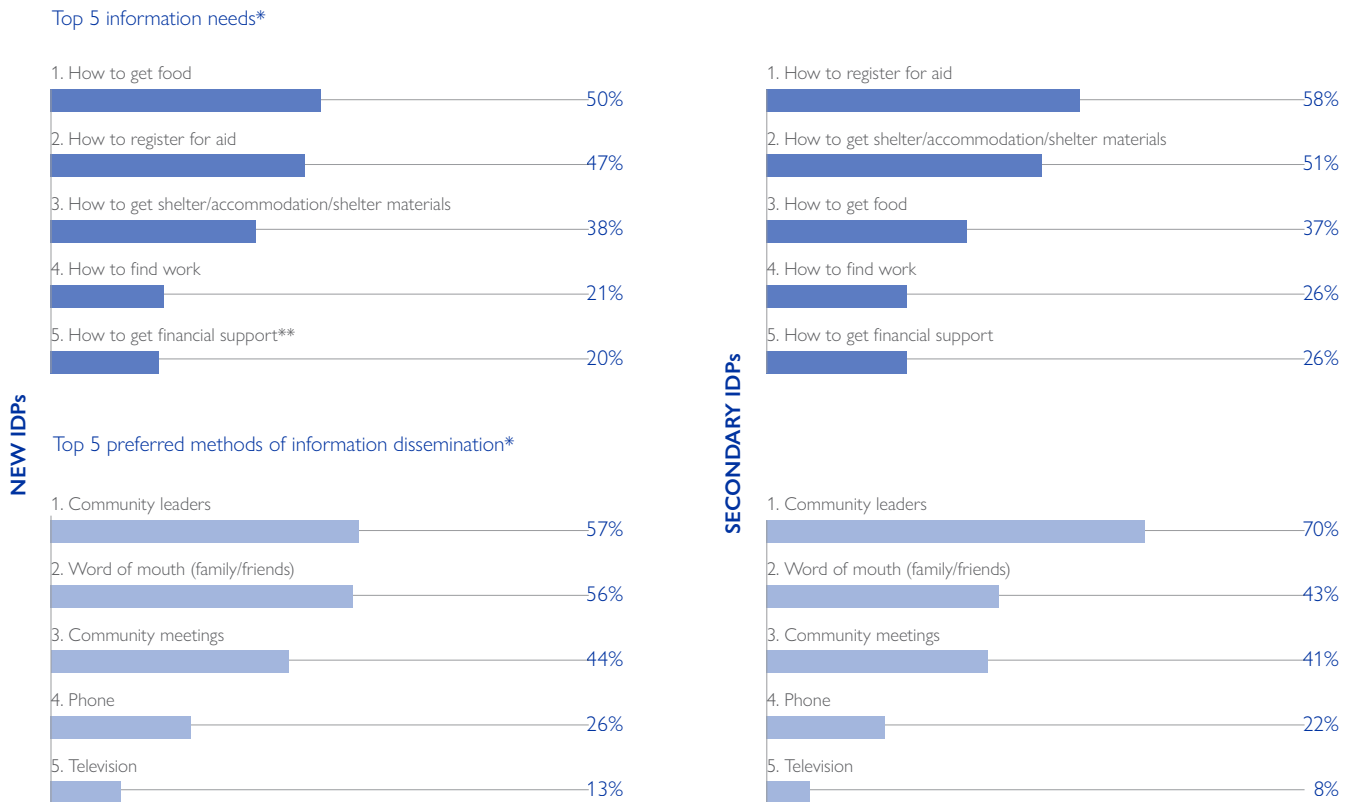
Infrastructure access, particularly related to markets and network, was relatively similarly among new and secondary IDPs. Households with school-going children among the latter, however, were more likely to have experienced their children's school stop functioning due to the earthquake (78%). The same demographic accounted for half (50%) of new IDP households with school-going children. Levels of damage among both groups were mainly moderate (56% overall) or severe (21% overall). District-level analysis* shows that respondents in Zindajan and Kushk reported most frequently that their schools were severely or completely damaged (44% and 40%, respectively). In Injil, 22 per cent reported that their schools were severely or completely damaged.

Overall, around a third (31%) of IDP households did not have access to a functional market. When asked about the level of damage, most respondents reported that they did not know the level of damage (84%), no damage (9%), or moderate damage (6%). New IDPs were more likely to report no damage (19%) compared to secondary IDPs (8%). Lack of access to functional market, therefore, may be more related to lack of knowledge regarding the location, hours, or function of the local market in IDPs' new location than damage to the local market itself.

Access to phones and network was relatively high among all households, though slightly lower among new IDPs (12% and 6% respectively versus 7% and 4%).

*Sample sizes of households with school-going children in Gulran, Guzara, and Karukh are too small to be included in the district-level analysis.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION



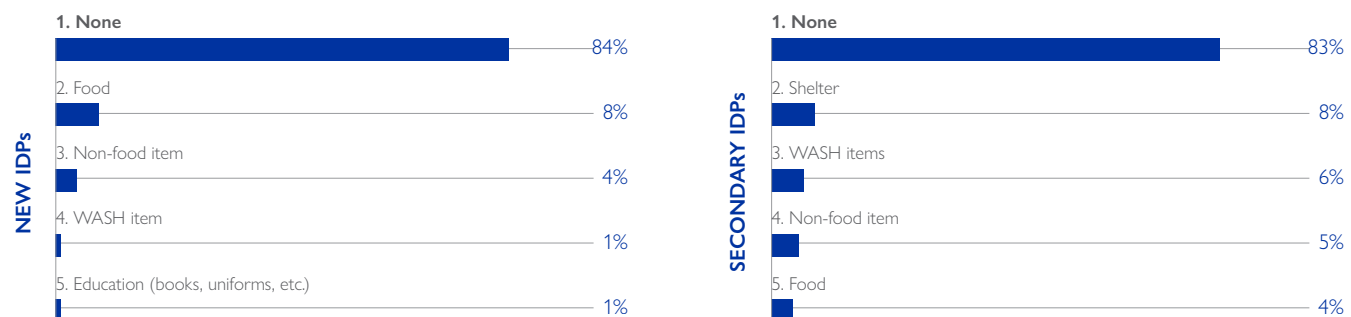
Information needs between new and secondary IDP households were fairly similar, though respondents prioritized them slightly differently. New IDPs were primarily interested in knowing how to get food (50%), followed by how to register for aid (47%), and how to get shelter (38%). Secondary IDPs were most interested in how to register for aid (58%), followed by how to get shelter (51%), and then how to get food (37%). How to find work and financial support were similarly common information needs among both groups. Among new IDP households, how to get water (20%) and healthcare (20%) were also frequently cited by respondents. This reflects findings from the WASH and Health sections on pages three and four, which show that new IDP households' access to these services are slightly lower than among secondary IDP households.

In general, female respondents were less likely to specify multiple information needs, but more than double the proportion of female respondents reported that they needed information on the safety and security situation of their location (15%) compared to male respondents (6%).

Preferred methods of communication are largely similar among both groups, with information from community leaders being most favored (68% overall), followed by word of mouth, community meetings, phone, and television. Women preferred community meetings (44%) slightly more than word of mouth (40%) compared to men.

ASSISTANCE MECHANISMS

Top 5 types of assistance received in the last 7 days*



The majority of assessed households had not received any type of assistance in the week prior to their interview (81% overall). Female-headed households were marginally more likely than male-headed households to not have received any assistance (88% compared to 82%). According to respondents, a few new IDP

households had received food (8%) and NFIs (4%). Meanwhile, some secondary IDP households had received shelter assistance (8%), WASH items (6%), NFIs (5%), and food (4%).

*Multiple answers possible (except if the option "none" is chosen, as in "Top 5 types of assistance received in the last 7 days"; sum of percentages may equal more than 100%

**20% of respondents also cited "how to get water" and 20% cited "how to get healthcare."



GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE
DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX