

Terms of Reference
Data collection for ECHO Needs Assessment
January-February 2023

1. Rational and Purpose

Mercy Corps aims to explore the current situation today against the backdrop of the pandemic and continuing IDPs and Returnees crisis- and would like to capture WASH and NFIs needs in Herat and Kandahar provinces in Afghanistan, and the lessons learned from previous experience. The findings of this assessment are expected to inform the design of an ECHO funded and Mercy Corps's managed program to address WASH and NFIs in Afghanistan.

2. Objectives

The main objective of this assessment is to identify the problems and needs of the affected population, identify at risk groups, capture the organizations providing assistance and support (NFIs, WASH, Cash assistance etc.) including current projects being implemented by Mercy Corps with different donors to build on the good experiences, avoid overlap and address gaps. This will be done by answering the follows:

1. Identify at risk groups and least served remote areas in Herat and Kandahar.
2. Current needs and the main priorities today that programs should focus on.
3. Has COVID-19 changed priorities for addressing WASH and NFIs? Change of leadership?
4. Considering the various programs supporting prevention and response services of WASH and NFIs, where the service gaps are? Are there geographic differences when it comes to the gaps?
5. What are the key barriers to addressing WASH and NFIs in identified districts?
6. What about cooperation and coordination between government and national and international NGOs to ensure a comprehensive handling of referrals in cases of violence?
7. Identify key lessons learned from previous projects and best approach.

3. Methodology

The assessment will follow a mixed-methods approach to investigation, including primary and secondary qualitative and quantitative data. The objectives (mentioned section 2) serve as the guiding reference for the assessment, describing key questions.

The primary data collection will be through structured surveys for affected populations - shown Annex II- following on-sight observational checklist - shown Annex III. As for the secondary

data, the list of documents - shown Annex I- will be reviewed to: (i) identify the least served areas in Herat and Kandahar; (ii) statistical data, (iii) WASH and NFIs needs identified to build on these findings; (iv) lessons learned of similar projects/programs; and, (v) any barriers previously identified.

4. Sample size

Based on the desk review for last updated version of 3Ws¹ published by OCHA and other published needs assessments² done; Mercy Corps identified underserved with urgent needs districts in Kandahar and Herat - where MC's already have field offices- which are the follows:

Kandahar:

- Spin Boldank district in Kandahar province. 25-75 organizations are operating and able to access there. The population is 113,727. Sampling; 95% confidence level; 5% margin of error; and z-value 1.96, which makes sample size (383 surveys)
- Panjwayi district in Kandahar province. 25-75 organizations are operating and able to access there. The population is 98,448. Sampling; 95% confidence level; 5% margin of error; and z-value 1.96, which makes sample size (383 surveys)

Herat

- Shindand district in Herat province. 25-75 organizations are operating and able to access there. The population is 173,800. Sampling; 95% confidence level; 5% margin of error; and z-value 1.96, which makes sample size (383 surveys)
- Adraskan district in Herat province. 11-23 organizations are operating and 25-75 are able to access there. The population is 52,200. Sampling; 95% confidence level; 5% margin of error; and z-value 1.96, which makes sample size (381 surveys)

Total 1530 beneficiaries surveys to be done and for mitigation measures, 20% as contingency plan which makes the total 1836 beneficiaries surveys. Additionally, on-sight observational checklists for each sub-district - which will be identified later- will be done.

5. Workplan and timeline

Mercy Corps will be leading the tools development and translating them; however, given the suspension of female NGOs workers, MC is aiming to contract a firm to lead and implement the data collection and lead the logistics in identified districts in Herat and Kandahar. The company is expected to start the data collection by **the 9th of February until the 16th of February.** Expected deliverables from the firm are: (i) Field Report; and, (ii) Raw Data.

6. Firm Evaluation Criteria

- Access to districts identified

¹ https://reliefweb.int/attachments/4c5ca6a0-d0e2-4398-8484-856a3c69ca52/afg_3w_202209SEP30_A3_Q1_OP.mxd.pdf

² <https://afghanistan.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11071/files/documents/southern-region-kandahar-province-factsheet-iom-places-16022022.pdf>

- ONA experience.
- Improve the capacity by providing a work plan.
- Similar works / relevance to the nature of work.
- Delivery Time.

7. Annexes

Annex II: Affected population survey

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1v06yO33hltjL3yhlqVtSeyFD2n2CNypH/edit#gid=317505152>

Annex III: On-sight Observational checklist

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xKf0W6d4Mv_A8oRSggmHzMI7jyS_QBZ9/edit#gid=317505152