REPORT

Midterm Review

Empowering Rural Afghanistan (ERA-II) Programme

Food security, natural resource management, and disaster risk reduction

May 2026

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This midterm review assesses the outcomes of the Empowering Rural Afghanistan (ERA-II) programme in Badakhshan, Daikundi, Faryab, Ghazni, Kapisa, Paktia, and Takhar - measuring progress against set targets, looking at what has changed, where progress has been made, and where gaps remain. It focuses on programme indicators related to livelihoods, food security, natural resource management (NRM), disaster risk reduction (DRR), and dialogue and conflict transformation. Data were collected through household surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews with programme participants in November 2025.

Overall, the findings demonstrate substantial progress across most programme indicators. Improvements have been observed in household livelihoods, income, agricultural and livestock productivity, climate-smart agriculture adoption, natural resource management, and food security. The following summarises progress across the main programme indicators between the 2023 baseline and the 2025 midterm.

- **Livelihood opportunities:** The proportion of supported households reporting improved livelihood opportunities increased from 14.7% at baseline to 59.9% at midterm. Female-headed households reported particularly strong progress (70.6%) compared to male-headed households (54.1%). The main drivers of improvement were better crop and fruit productivity, improved access to irrigation, and increased employment opportunities. Around one in five households still reported declining livelihoods, primarily due to drought and reduced employment.
- **Household income:** The proportion of households reporting increased income rose from 11.0% at baseline to 56.1% at midterm. However, many households still face economic pressure to meet their basic needs, reportedly due to natural hazards, drought, market instability, rising prices, ongoing regional instability and conflict, and the closure of the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, from mid-2025. Agriculture, livestock, small businesses, and labour wage remain the primary sources of income.
- **Agricultural productivity:** 60.2% of households reported increased agricultural productivity in 2025, compared to only 13.3% at baseline. Farmers reported better crop yields, improved irrigation access, increased use of organic fertilisers and drought-tolerant seeds, and wider adoption of crop rotation and water conservation practices. Challenges such as drought, irregular rainfall, pests, limited irrigation water, and lack of agricultural inputs continue to affect productivity in some areas.
- **Livestock productivity:** Economic benefits from livestock increased notably among households that rely on livestock as their primary source of income, rising from 6.6% at baseline to 78.9% at midterm, though animal diseases and limited access to veterinary services continue to be reported as barriers.
- **Natural resource management (NRM):** The programme strengthened sustainable NRM practices and environmental protection efforts at the community level. Partner communities increasingly adopting soil conservation measures, reforestation activities, organic farming practices, and tree plantation. The establishment of NRM committees and their sub-groups contributed to improved community awareness and local engagement in climate adaptation and environmental protection.

- **Food security:** Household food consumption score (borderline or acceptable) improved from 31.6% at baseline to 66.3% at midterm. However, dietary diversity remains limited, with most households still relying heavily on a narrow range of food items. Most households (76.7%) are still employing some form of food-related coping strategy, indicating that food stress has not been eliminated.
- **Disaster risk reduction (DRR):** Community resilience to climate and natural disasters improved from 14.6% at baseline to 64.3% at midterm. Access to DRR infrastructure was reported at 49.1% at midterm, compared to 23.7% at baseline. Communities showed strong understanding of disaster risks (80.2%) and functional DRR committees and structures at the community level (74.1%).
- **Dialogue and conflict transformation:** This cross-cutting component has shown strong results. 52.5% of community members participated in dialogue sessions, with satisfaction rates above 98% and high reported relevance. Most participants said they had applied dialogue skills at both family and community level, contributing to improved communication and social cohesion across target areas.

Overall, the programme has made significant progress across all key areas and outcomes. However, continued support is needed as challenges related to climate change, drought, market instability, and limited access to inputs and training continue to affect vulnerable rural households.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Empowering Rural Afghanistan-II 2023-2026 (ERA-II) programme is funded by Norad, and is our current largest programme which has three components: (1) TVET & Education; (2) Health, and (3) Food security, livelihood, and natural resource management, with disaster risk reduction, dialogue and conflict transformation, gender and human rights as cross cutting within the main programme sectors. This midterm review focuses on the third component - food security, livelihoods, and natural resource management.

A baseline assessment for this component was conducted in 2023, establishing benchmark values for key indicators across the target communities. In November 2025, we carried out this midterm review to track changes since that baseline, assess progress, and identify where adjustments may be needed. it compares current data against baseline values to enable a structured midterm reflection and provide evidence for learning, accountability, and adaptive management.

The study assessed households' food access, income and livelihood opportunities, agriculture and natural resource management practices, and their preparedness for climate-related shocks, aligned with the programme expected outcomes. To ensure robust comparisons, the study was conducted in November, the same month as the 2023 baseline, and revisited the same households wherever possible. Data were collected from four core provinces – Badakhshan, Daikundi, Faryab, and Ghazni – along with a smaller number of programme participants from Kapisa, Paktia, and Takhar who have been engaged since 2023.

This report is organised as follows: After providing an overview of the study and introduction, the methodology for the household survey and data collection are described. This is followed by an analysis of general household characteristics and respondents' demography, leading to the bulk of the report, which includes the findings, analysis and discussion in relation to specific ERA-II NRM and food security outcome-level indicators. The report concludes with conclusion and learning for future implementation.

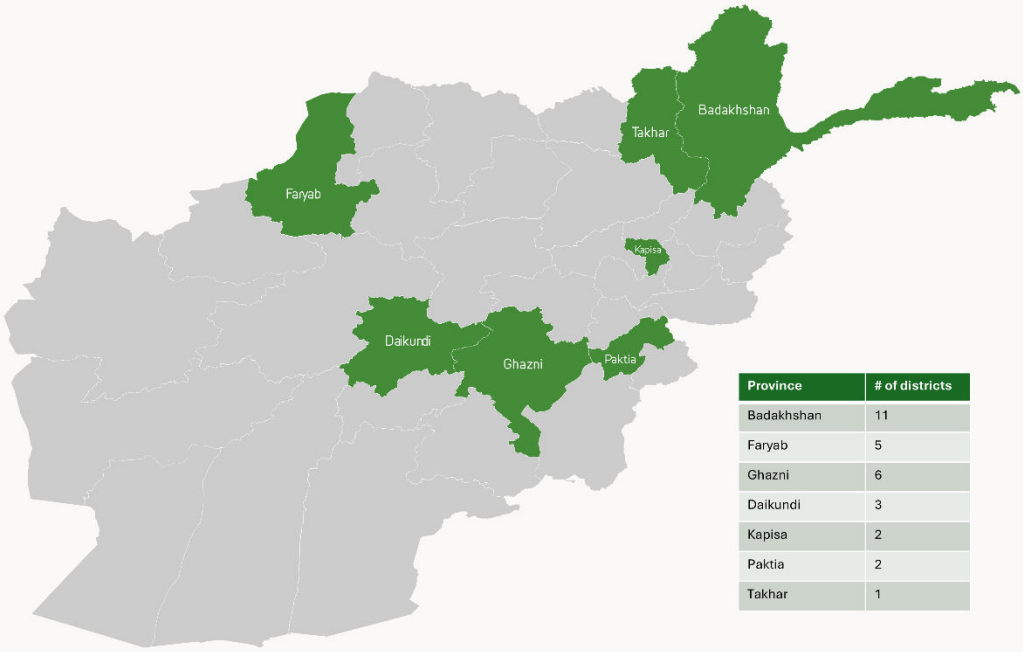
3. METHODOLOGY

Similar to the baseline, the midterm review adopted a mixed method approach consisting of both quantitative (household survey) and qualitative (individual interviews and FGDs) data collection methods. A total of 701 household surveys and 45 in-depth Interviews and FGDs have been conducted in the targeted provinces. For the household survey, the sample size for each of the provinces/districts have been determined based on the actual number of beneficiaries/participants per province, or district. More details about methods are discussed in the following sections.

2.1 Sample size

Respondents for the household survey have been selected from amongst the programme participants 2023 - 2025, and the number of respondents has been decided based on the number of overall programme participants, per province and district. The participants include smallholder farmers, livestock herders, self-help group (SHG) members, NRM and DRR committee members, and other community members supported through the programme during past three years.

Figure 1: *Midterm review geographical map*



Province	# of districts
Badakhshan	11
Faryab	5
Ghazni	6
Daikundi	3
Kapisa	2
Paktia	2
Takhar	1

Using the sample size formula ($N=t^2 \times p(1-p) / m2$) and considering a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error, a sample size of 658 was calculated. An additional 43 households were added to the calculated sample size to better cover small clusters and improve the reliability of the results.

Although we used a cluster and systematic random sampling techniques to select the respondents for this survey, at the same time, we considered the list of beneficiaries who participated in our baseline assessment (2023) an annual review (2024). This means that most of the households surveyed in this midterm review were amongst those that had been surveyed at the beginning of the programme as well as in the annual review. This was done mainly for the purposes of longitudinal comparison. The following table shows the number of participants per district/province surveyed in this assessment.

Table 1: *Midterm survey participants – by location and gender*

Province	District	Female	Male	Total
Badakhshan	Argo	7	21	28
	Baharak	8	16	24
	Faizabad	7	0	7
	Keshem	8	17	25
	Kohistan	1	14	15
	Raghestan	1	18	19
	Shuhada	5	15	20
	Warduj	11	10	21
	Yaftal-e-Payan	7	22	29
	Yawan	1	19	20
	Zebak	12	9	21
Takhar	Kalafghan	9	13	22
Daikundi	Nili	5	24	29
	Pato	5	24	29
	Shahristan	10	19	29
Faryab	Almar	15	14	29
	Maimana	8	4	12
	Pashton Kot	10	27	37
	Qaisar	8	29	37
	Shirin Tagab	0	4	4
Ghazni	Ajristan	1	26	27
	Andar	4	27	31
	Deh yak	7	25	32
	Ghazni City	15	25	40
	Jaghori	20	18	38
	Malistan	26	13	39
Kapisa	Alasai	10	0	10
	Tagab	9	0	9
Paktia	Ahmad Aba	9	0	9
	Gardez	9	0	9
	Total (#)	**248**	**453**	**701**
	Total (%)	**(35.4%)**	**(64.6%)**	**(100%)**

The midline study was designed primarily for longitudinal comparison (tracking change over time within the same communities) rather than for comparative analysis across districts or provinces. Sample sizes per district and province were determined based on the actual number of programme participants, resulting non-proportional samples across targeted provinces and districts. Furthermore, the intensity and type of interventions varied by location (e.g., some provinces received more NRM or DRR support than others), making direct statistical comparisons between provinces methodologically inappropriate.

In addition to the quantitative survey of the supported households, 26 focus group discussions and 19 individual interviews were conducted with programme participants such as smallholder farmers, smallholder herders, SHG members, and other community members.

Special attention was given to make sure women were participated in the study. Overall, 35.4% of the respondents were female, which matches the expected level of women's participation in the programme activities.

2.2 Data collection and management

For the household survey, a structured cross-sectional questionnaire is used; incorporating the questions which addresses the programme defined log frame indicators, has been developed and used. For the qualitative part, in-depth interview and FGD guides were developed for each group of programme participants.

In the household survey, we used a digitized data collection system - Kobo Toolbox via ODK Collect app in tablets – to collect household data. To ensure consistency in responses of households and accuracy of the collected data, a high level of 'skip logics' and 'validation criteria' were applied in the questionnaire in Kobo Toolbox. For the qualitative part, semi-structured FGD and individual interview guides were developed, focusing on agriculture, NRM, SHGs, and DRR interventions. FGDs were conducted with smallholder farmers, livestock herders, SHG members, and other community members. Individual interviews were used to collect deeper and more personal views, without group influence, to better understand changes and experiences over the three years.

Upon completion of the household survey data collection, inconsistency checks, re-verification, and data cleaning were performed on the data retrieved from Kobo Toolbox to prepare the data for further data analysis processes into relevant packages. Given the nature of the data collected, both quantitative and qualitative methods of data analysis were performed to produce the results. For the quantitative data analysis, we largely utilized MS Excel, SPSS, and Power BI software for various frequency distributions, cross-tabulations, statistically significant tests, and univariate and bi-variate tables with different types of variables (i.e., nominal, ordinal, interval, and ratios) on the projects' indicators. For qualitative data analysis, a deductive thematic analysis was utilized, using NVivo, categorizing the findings in relation to relevant indicators to provide in-depth analysis of the situations in the targeted communities reported by targeted household members.

Before field data collection, a five-day training was conducted on key topics such as tools, target groups, of Kobo Toolbox, field study plan and ethics. In total, 37 field research team and enumerators (25% female), were involved in data collection across all provinces. In each province there were a dedicated supervisor from the M&E department to provide support to the team at the field level.

2.3 Limitations

There were no specific limitations of the study that had the potential of discrediting the collected data. However, challenges were encountered and these are outlined below.

Challenge	Mitigation
Requirement for official government permission letters: Official permission letters from relevant government authorities were a prerequisite for data collection	To secure these in a timely manner, our regional offices maintained consistent, direct coordination with provincial authorities. In parallel, preparatory work - finalising tools, training enumerators, and organising field logistics and transport - went ahead so that field teams could deploy immediately once permissions were granted.
Movement restrictions for female enumerators: Restrictions on women's movement limited the ability of female enumerators to travel and collect data independently.	Where necessary, a mahram allowance was provided specifically to support the male relatives (mahrams) accompanying female enumerators in the field, enabling safe and locally acceptable movement. To ensure appropriate access, female enumerators preferably interviewed female-headed households, while male colleagues interviewed male-headed households. Where female enumerators could not conduct interviews directly - for example, with male household members - male colleagues provided support.
Inability to fully follow the same respondents from baseline: It was not possible to interview exact all the households covered at baseline due to population movement and absence	Wherever possible, the survey revisited the same households that participated in the 2023 baseline. When it was not possible, the study drew samples from the same communities and, as much as possible, from households with similar socioeconomic conditions to preserve comparability- all of whom were NAC programme participants.
Sensitivities around voice recording: In some individual interviews and FGDs, participants - particularly women - were uncomfortable with voice recording.	Our teams did not use recorders in those sessions and instead relied on detailed notetaking, managed by both the facilitators and notetakers. They cross-checked key points among themselves right after each discussion to ensure that important details and community perspectives were recorded as accurately as possible.
Difficulties in measuring some key indicators: Some respondents did not able to recall some information related to annual income, dept, or expenditures, that could have impacted negatively on the accuracy of the results.	The study asked about income and expenditure sources and their percentage contributions rather than exact monetary amounts. Some respondents still found it difficult to recall these details accurately. Enumerators used simple probing and cross-checking during interviews to clarify inconsistencies and reduce recall bias.
Data inconsistencies during quantitative analysis: Some inconsistencies were observed during the cleaning and analysis of quantitative data.	To resolve these, the team ran systematic consistency checks throughout data collection and the cleaning phase. Where conflicting or unclear information was identified, respondents were re-contacted when feasible to verify or clarify their answers. These steps improved the overall reliability and quality of the final dataset used for analysis.

Demographic characteristics of surveyed households

Figure 2: *Gender of head of households*

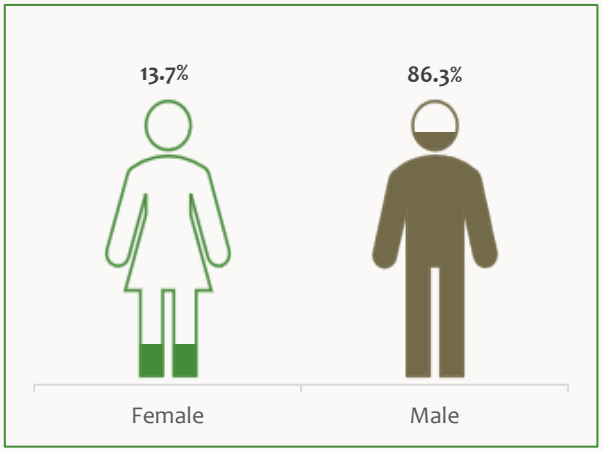


Figure 3: *Gender and age composition of households*

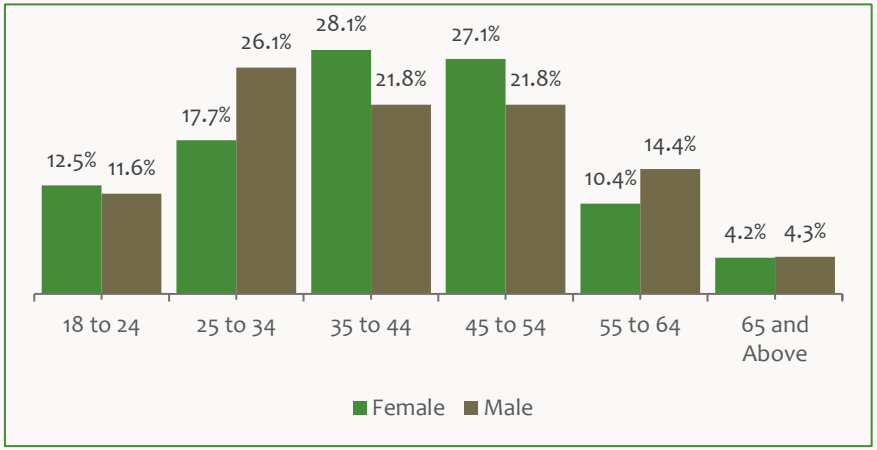


Figure 4: *Education status of head of households*

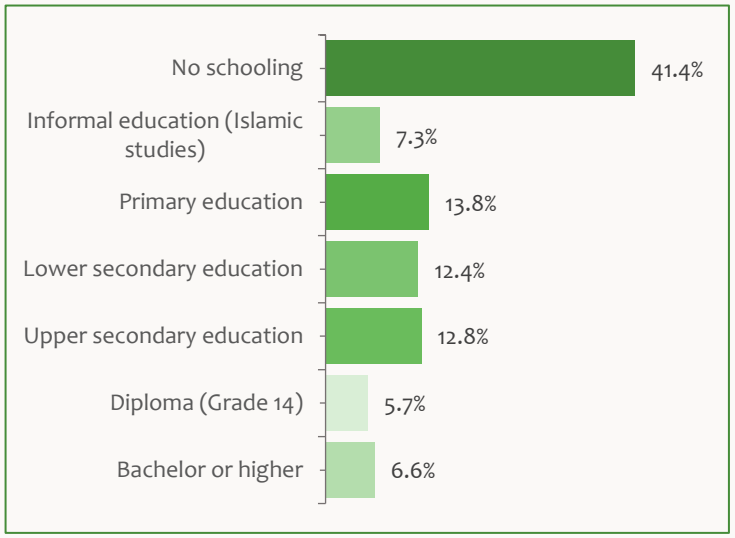


Figure 5: *Disability status of head of households*

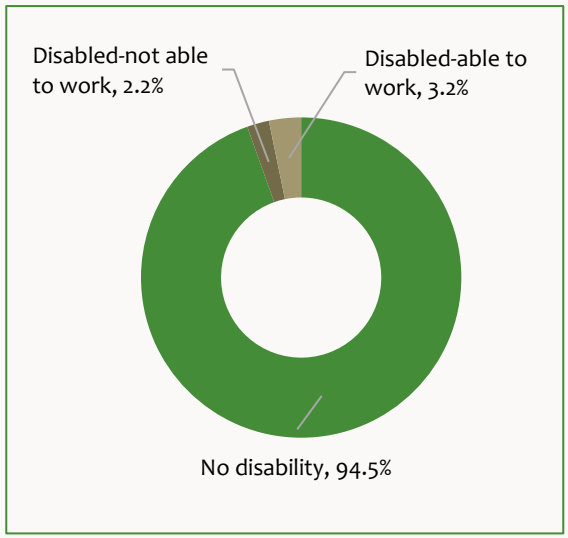
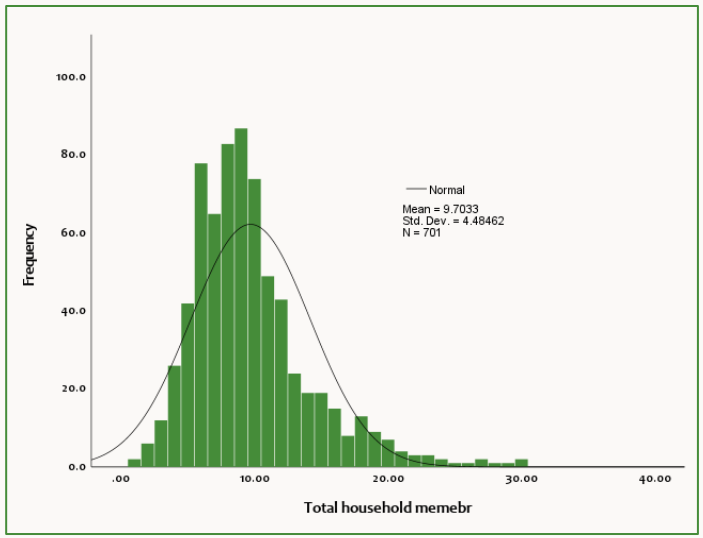


Figure 6: *Households size composition*



4. KEY FINDINGS

This section of the report presents the main findings of the midterm assessment, addressing the key programme indicators. To see the changes overtime, the findings are presented in compression with the baseline findings conducted in 2023 and annual review in 2024. The findings are organised under the following main indicators:

Table 2: *List of Key indicators with baseline, annual review, and midterm values*

No	Indicator	Baseline 2023	Annual review 2024	Midterm 2025
Obj3	**% of supported community members demonstrate improved livelihood opportunities - disaggregated by gender**	**14.7%** (14.5% F & 14.8% M)	**49.6%** (48.4% F & 50.9% M)	**59.9%** (70.6% F & 54.1% M
Out 3.1a	% of smallholder farmers supported implement innovative climate-smart agriculture practices - disaggregated by gender.	29.1% (24.3% F & 30.9% M)	44.6% (47.5% F & 42.9% M)	65.9% (69.5% F & 64.7% M)
Out 3.1c	% of supported communities adapting sustainable, integrated natural resources management practices	16.7%	47.8%	63.4%
Out 3.1e	% of supported communities reporting improved agriculture productivity	13.3%	62.6%	60.2%
Out 3.1b	% of supported community members reporting increased economic benefits from livestock - disaggregated by gender	6.63% (4.17% F & 7.6% M)	76.4% All female	78.9% All female
Out 3.1f	% of supported community members reported increased household income.	11.0%	39.0%	56.1%
Obj 3c	**% of supported communities demonstrate improved resilience to the impact of natural disasters**	**14.6%**	**42.4%**	**64.3%**
Out 3.4a	% of supported communities enabled to effectively prepare for and respond to natural disasters	12.9%	35.9%	45.7%
Out 3.4b	% of supported communities have improved access to DRR infrastructure.	23.7%	21.6%	49.1%
Obj 3a	**% of supported households with borderline or acceptable food consumption scores**	**31.6%** (20.1% F & 36.6% M)	**53.1%** (27.0% F & 71.9% M	**66.3%** (62.1% F & 68.7% M)
Out 3.1d	% of supported households with 'high' dietary diversity.	4.97%	72.8%	78.2%

3.1 Change in the livelihood opportunities

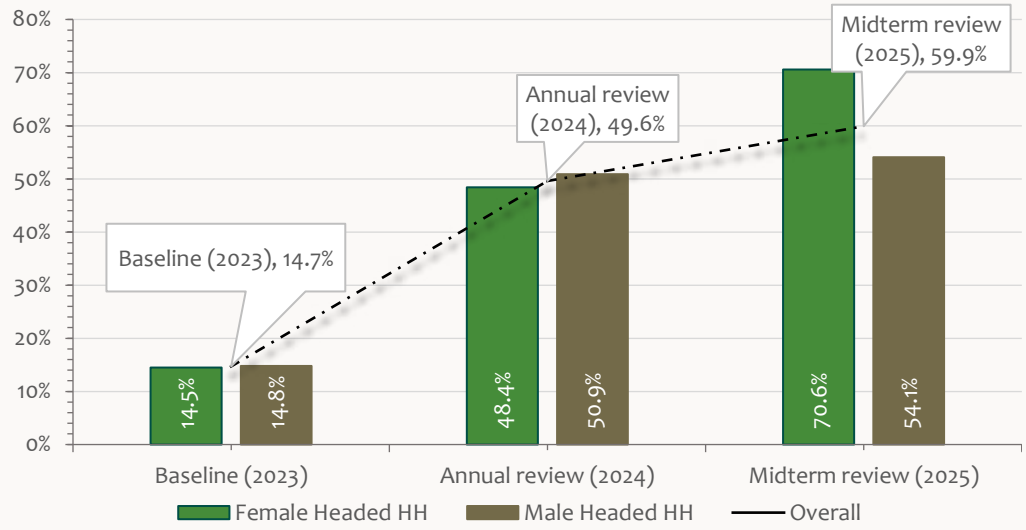
Objective Indicator 3: *% of supported community members demonstrate improved livelihood opportunities - disaggregated by gender.*

In this report, livelihood is understood as the capabilities, assets, and activities households use to make a living. In rural Afghanistan, these revolve primarily around agriculture, livestock, small businesses, and labour wages. Through the ERA-II programme, NAC supported households by strengthening opportunities in these critical areas, with the overall objective of improving livelihood opportunities.

This section presents the findings on changes in livelihood opportunities and related household outcomes since the programme began. To assess this, households were asked whether they had experienced any improvement in the above key livelihood areas over the last three years.

Overall, 59.9% of supported households reported an improvement in their livelihood opportunities, a substantial and consistent increase over time. The proportion rose from 14.7% in 2023 (baseline) to 49.6% in 2024, and further to 59.9% in 2025. Notably, improvement was higher among female-headed households (70.6%) than male-headed households (54.1%). At baseline, these figures were similar (14.5% and 14.8% respectively).

Figure 7: *Livelihood increased by overall and gender (n=701)*



Over the past three years, women received livestock packages (small ruminants and poultry), training and equipment for food processing (drying fruits and vegetables, making jams and pickles), and support for small businesses through SHGs and MSME initiatives. These activities created direct income streams for women, many of whom previously had no independent livelihood. As one female SHG member explained: *"I grow vegetables in my plastic tunnel using seeds from NAC and sell them in summer and winter. I earn a good income selling pickles, chutney, and bolani… Our income has increased compared to last year".*

In addition, a further 20.8% of households reported that their situation had 'remained the same. This can still be considered a positive outcome, as it reflects the sustained continuity of livelihood opportunities despite multiple shocks and disruptions affecting the sector.

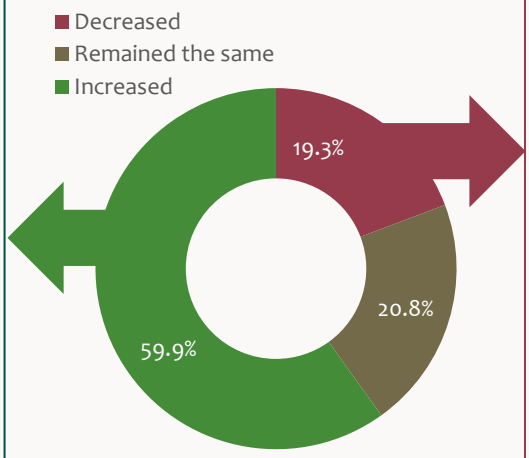
Respondents identified several factors contributing to increased or sustained livelihood opportunities since the baseline. These include improved crop productivity (18.1%), land protection measures (17.6%), access to irrigation canals (15.3%), improved fruit productivity (14.2%), increased job opportunities (8.0%), improved livestock productivity (6.2%), improved security (4.8%), improved knowledge and skills (4.6%), improved seed availability (4.6%), increased access to agricultural tools/inputs (4.5%), and improved access to post-harvest structures (1.7%).

Despite these positive trends over the past three years, 19.3% of households reported a decrease in their livelihood opportunities. The main reasons cited for this decline were drought (33.1%), reduced employment opportunities (24%), crop pests and diseases (15.8%), irregular rainfall patterns (12.2%), and flooding (3.6%).

Figure 8: *Change in household livelihood opportunities over the past three years. (n=701)*

Main reasons reported

- Improved crop productivity (**18.1%**)
- Land protection from disasters (**17.6%**)
- Improved access to irrigation canals (**15.3%**)
- Improved fruit productivity (**14.2%**)
- Increased job opportunities (**8.0%**)
- Improved livestock productivity (**6.2%**)
- Improved security (**4.8%**)
- Improved knowledge and skills (**4.6%**)
- Increased access to seeds (**4.6%**)
- Increased access to agricultural tools/inputs (**4.5%**)
- Improved access to post-harvest structures (**1.7%**)
- Other (**0.4%**)



Main reasons reported

- Drought (**33.1%**)
- Reduced employment rate (**24.0%**)
- Crop pest/diseases (**15.8%**)
- Irregular rainfall (**12.2%**)
- Reliance on humanitarian assistance (**6.6%**)
- Flood (**3.6%**)
- Other (**1.3%**)
- Death of HH head/member (**1.0%**)
- Displacement (**0.9%**)
- Frost/Hailstorm (**0.9%**)
- Insecurity (**0.2%**)
- Landslide (**0.2%**)
- Avalanches (**0.1%**)

"Overall, production and yields have decreased mainly due to drought and lack of irrigation water... but parts of the land I focused on and implemented new methods on have yielded better results". – **Smallholder farmer, Faryab, Interview.**

While the positive trends suggest that the programme has made a significant contribution to improving livelihood opportunities among partner communities, the continued decline reported by some households reveals that challenges (largely driven by the impacts of climate change), persist and continue to affect families. This underscores the need for the programme to focus on addressing the challenges directly reported by affected households in the remaining period.

3.2 Implementation of innovative climate-smart agriculture practices

Outcome Indicator 3.1: *% of smallholder farmers supported implement innovative climate-smart agriculture practices - disaggregated by gender.*

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) has been a key focus in our agriculture and NRM interventions with aim to support our partner communities in improving productivity, better management of natural resources (e.g., land and water), and increase their community resilience to the impact of

climate change. During the past three years NAC supported famers in our partner communities to adopt CSA as an approach in agriculture by improving their access to required resources and inputs including infrastructures and providing knowledge and skills exchange opportunities including workshops and practical trainings on CSA.

To assess the results of our support and understand the extent to which the supported farmers have adopted the approach in their agricultural works, farmer respondents were evaluated against a set of CSA practices introduced throughout the programme. Following is the list of practices/indicators with achieved values in midterm compared to the annual review 2024 and baseline assessment 2023.

Table 3: CSA practices reported (n=432)

CSA Practices / Indicator	Baseline (2023) Value	Annul review (2024) Value	Midterm (2025) Value
Construction/rehabilitation of agro-based infrastructure	21.2%	34.8%	55.8%
Water conservation	14.6%	37.3%	57.3%
Mulching	11.1%	30.3%	57.3%
Planting climate-adapted non-fruit saplings	28.7%	40.3%	61.9%
Integrated pest management (IPM) practices	22.1%	45.1%	66.0%
Usage of climate-adapted seeds	24.8%	42.4%	69.3%
Usage of organic fertilizers	38.5%	55.4%	69.5%
Planting climate-adapted fruit saplings	49.9%	53.3%	70.1%
Crop rotation	51.4%	62.4%	85.7%
Overall	**29.1%**	**44.6%**	**65.9%**

The overall results show a significant increase in adoption of CSA practices. The total adoption rate was only 29.1% at baseline, it increased to 44.6% in 2024, and 65.9% in 2025 (current midterm), showing a gradual improvement in the use of climate-smart practices among farmers.

Looking to the details, some practices show strong and stable adoption. Crop rotation is the most common one, and farmers are already seeing results. For example, a farmer in one of our FGDs stated that apply crop rotation, this year he planted wheat on only half his land and harvested 1,400 kg. Before, he planted on all his land but harvested only half of that amount. This is followed by planting climate-adapted fruit saplings, usage of organic fertilizers, and usage of climate-adapted seeds. These practices are widely accepted by farmers and have become part of regular farming activities in partner communities as reported by farmers. Other practices such as use of IPM practices, Planting climate-adapted non-fruit saplings, Mulching, and Water conservation also reported by farmers we have worked with, and it indicates improved awareness of safer and more sustainable farming methods.

"We dig a pit around the tree, fill it with straw and weeds, and then irrigate it. Previously, we watered the trees once a week; now we do so every two weeks because sunlight does not hit the soil directly".

- **FFS member, Ghazni, FGD.**

To understand the patterns across provinces, the data was analysed by province. Results show consistent improvement in all targeted provinces, particularly where CSA was a major focus. Significant increases were recorded in Badakhshan, from 21.7% to 64.3% increased by 42.6 %,

Daikundi from 14.6% to 57.1% increased by 42.5 %, Faryab from 31.1% to 72.0% increased by 40.9 %, and Ghazni from 27.2% to 69.1% increased by 41.9 %. While in the provinces with less programme interventions with farmers, including Kapisa, Paktia, improvements were comparatively lower, ranging from 22.7 to 28.3% improvement. Our findings also reveal that CSA adoption practices are relatively higher among supported female farmers compared to male farmers, with 69.5% of female-headed households applying promoted CSA practices, compared to 64.7% of male-headed households. This difference likely reflects the scale and type of farming: women primarily apply CSA practices on small home gardens and vegetable plots, where row planting, mulching, and composting are easily implemented and produce rapid visible results.

Although it is still early to fully measure the impact of CSA adoption on agricultural productivity, the data already indicates positive results. Among the 76.5% of farmers who reported increased or sustained agricultural productivity, 94.2% had adopted crop rotation and 69.0% had adopted composting as key CSA practices. A similar pattern is observed in climate resilience outcomes, with 64.3% of those who reported improved resilience to climate change and natural disasters 69.3% also reporting the implementation of CSA practices such as planting sapling for environmental protection in their communities.

The overall target for this outcome is set at 85% to be achieved by 2025. The current value of 65.9% at this midterm review indicates that progress is on track toward reaching the target.

3.3 Adapting sustainable, integrated natural resources management practices

> **Outcome indicator 3.1:** *% of supported communities adapting sustainable, integrated natural resources management practices*

Climate change, growing food and livelihood insecurity, prolonged conflict, and weakened governance systems have had profound consequences for natural resources in Afghanistan. A large proportion of the population depends directly on natural resources and agriculture for survival, yet poor management, overexploitation, and limited institutional capacity have accelerated environmental degradation. In response, the programme intended to promote sustainable natural resource management through environmentally sensitive practices that build on existing best approaches to strengthen climate change adaptation and restore degraded natural resources. This includes improved watershed and pasture management, forestry rehabilitation, reforestation initiatives, and the introduction of appropriate technologies and sustainable practices designed to enhance resilience, protect livelihoods, and support long-term environmental sustainability.

Since the beginning of the programme, over 370,000 climate-resilient fruit and non-fruit saplings have been produced and distributed through NAC farms, nurseries, and household-based initiatives, directly contributing to forestry rehabilitation, watershed protection, soil conservation, and broader environmental restoration while strengthening community capacity in sustainable natural resource management. In addition, NAC has established and supported over 2,000 NRM committees and environment protection groups across partner communities in Badakhshan, Daikundi, Faryab, and Ghazni over the past three years to strengthen local leadership and community-based environmental governance. These committees play a central

role in promoting the conservation, rehabilitation, and sustainable utilisation of natural resources through activities such as community sensitisation, awareness raising on the negative impacts of climate change, and supporting seed distribution campaigns. By enhancing community understanding and encouraging active participation, the NRM committees help prepare households and communities to implement a holistic approach to climate adaptation and resource preservation, while reinforcing long-term sustainability and resilience at the local level.

"After receiving training, the community members have actively implemented the practices they learned. They have participated in tree planting, constructed irrigation canals, and adopted measures to prevent soil erosion, such as using compost, planting vegetation, and managing water resources effectively".

- NRMC Member, Faryab, FGD.

This midterm assessment assessed the extent to which partner communities have adopted improved natural resource management and climate adaptation practices promoted through the programme. It assessed progress in strengthening sustainable agricultural and environmental conservation behaviours, enhancing community awareness of climate change impacts, and improving the protection, rehabilitation, and utilisation of natural resources. The table below summarises the key practices assessed and their corresponding achievement levels at midterm.

Table 4: *Rate of adaption of sustainable NRM and environmental protection practices (n = 432)*

Sustainable Natural Resource Management (NRM) Practices	Midterm Value
Climate-adapted fruit saplings are planted in our community	70.1%
Farmers use organic fertilizers over chemical fertilizers (Composting)	69.5%
Drought-tolerant seeds are being used by farmers in our community	69.3%
Farmers have learned and adapted reducing of pesticides/herbicide (EF)	67.8%
Farmers have learned how to make pesticides from local materials. (tobacco, garlic, pepper, etc.)	64.7%
Farmers have learned and implemented mechanical pests' controls (e.g., carton trunk, pest traps, etc.)	64.2%
Community members reduced cutting bushes	64.1%
Community members have learned and adapted tracing and contouring methods	63.7%
Forests in our community are effectively managed through reduced forest cutting	63.6%
Drought-tolerant non-fruit saplings are planted in our community	61.9%
Pastures / rangelands in our community are managed through replantation	57.9%
Agro-based infrastructures in the community have improved agricultural productivity and protectivity	55.8%
Forests in our community are effectively managed through replantation	52.1%
Average Rate	**63.4%**

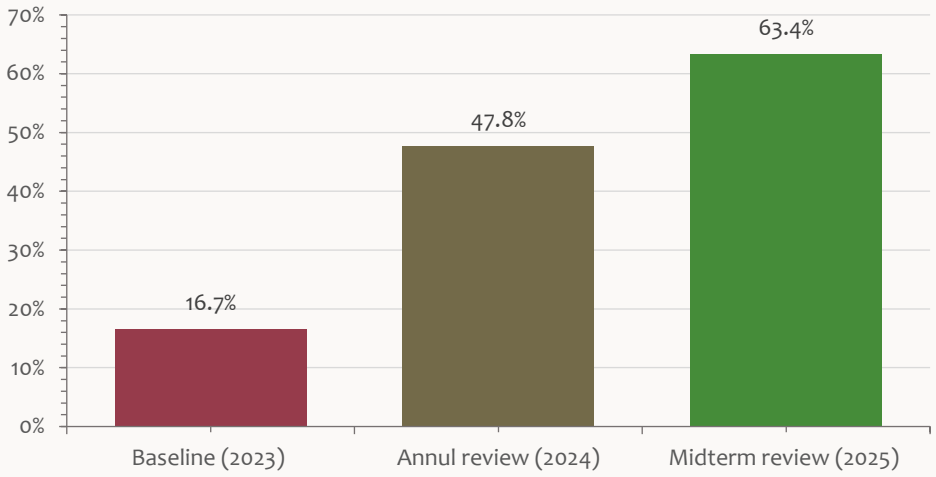
"People no longer cut bushes from the mountain… the forest committee has been assigned to prevent it by working closely with other community members. Previously, everyone who went would clear the hills of bushes, but now it is prevented".

- **CDMC members, Daikundi, FGD.**

Overall, the findings indicate a consistent and substantial increase in the adoption of sustainable NRM practices since the baseline assessment. In 2023, only 16.7% of communities reported adopting these practices; this increased to 47.8% in 2024 and further rose to 63.4% in 2025. These

results demonstrate strong and steady progress toward the overall target of 85%, indicating that implementation is moving in a positive direction.

Figure 9: *% of communities adopting sustainable Natural Resource Management (NRM) practices (n=432)*



3.4 Agriculture products and productivity

> **Objective Indicator 3:** *% of supported communities reporting improved agriculture productivity or resilience to natural disasters because of productive and protective infrastructure.*

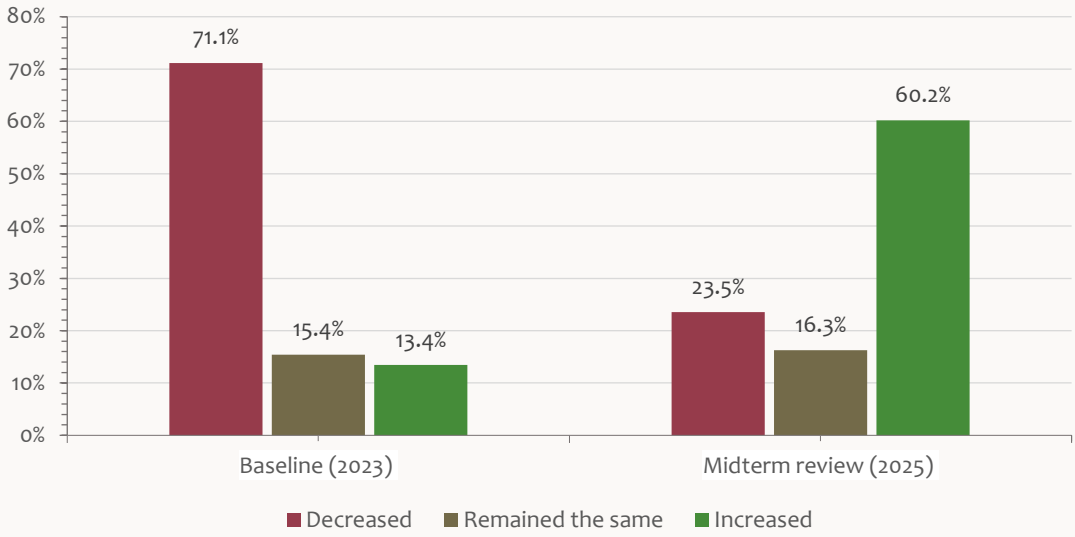
Over the past three years, NAC has supported smallholder farmers through providing knowledge and skills exchange opportunities, training, agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and tools, as well as constructing protective infrastructure, all aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity. In this section of the report, we compare smallholder farmers' reported productivity at baseline and midterm to assess how agricultural productivity has changed over the past three years.

Comparing the findings of the two assessments, the results show that the proportion of farmers reporting improved agricultural productivity has increased significantly. At baseline, only 13.4% of farmers reported an increase, whereas at the midterm this figure increased to 60.2%. In contrast, the proportion of farmers reporting a decline in productivity decreased from 71.1% at baseline to 23.5% at midterm. Farmers reporting no change in productivity stayed almost the same, increasing slightly from 15.4% at baseline to 16.3% at midterm.

"Previously, planting 7 kg of beans would give us 28 kg... but this year we harvested around 49-63 kg from the same amount".

- **Smallholder farmer, Badakhshan, Individual Interview.**

Figure 10: *Change in agricultural productivity by year (n=289)*



This reported increase is in part driven by improvements in crop yields, and this is a key metric for measuring agricultural productivity, as it reflects how efficiently land and inputs are converted into agricultural output. For this analysis, we used wheat yield as a typical crop in Afghanistan.

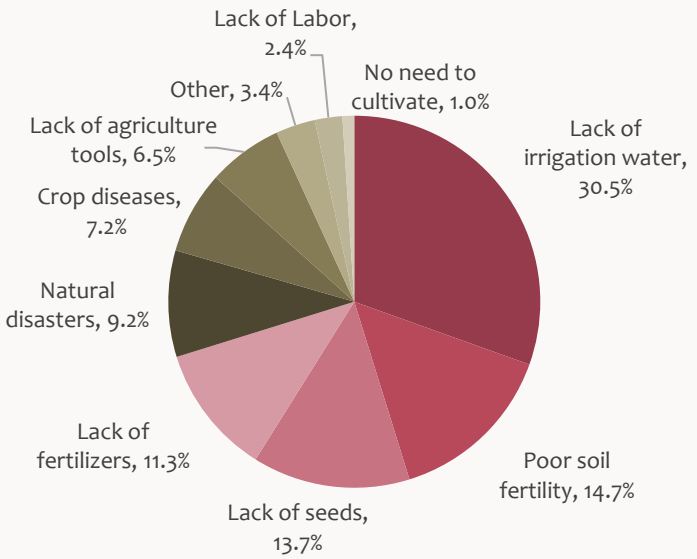
To measure the impact of our programme interventions to reported agricultural productivity, we assessed the contribution of the constructed agro-based infrastructure projects and provided agricultural inputs on agricultural productivity, by comparing reported productivity levels among communities and farmers who received these interventions. The results among the 83.7% of the farmers in communities where NAC constructed agro-based productive infrastructure reported (e.g., irrigation canals) increased or sustained agricultural productivity. Similarly, 77% of farmers who received agricultural inputs (including certified seeds) over the past three years reported increased or sustained agricultural productivity.

Smallholder farmers also reported that the support they received over the past three years helped them to a larger proportion of the land they access to, this enabled them to increase their production. This is further evidenced by comparing land access and land use at baseline and midterm. Programme baseline data indicate that, on average, farmers cultivated 66.6% of the irrigated land available to them. By the midterm assessment, this pattern had improved significantly. Our data on land use show that in 2025, supported smallholder farmers cultivated more of their irrigated land overall.

Despite the increase in cultivated land compared to baseline, a large proportion of the land farmer access to, remained uncultivated. In Daikundi, 38.4% of irrigated land remained uncultivated; in Ghazni, 37.6%; in Faryab, 28.3%; and in Badakhshan, 14.5%.

We explored the underlying factors by asking respondents about the reasons for leaving their land uncultivated. The responses identified lack of irrigation water (30.5%) largely due to inefficiencies in the irrigation system (water losses), poor soil fertility (14.7%), insufficient seeds (13.7%), lack of fertilizers (11.3%) and natural disaster (9.2%) as the main constraints preventing farmers from cultivating all their land.

Figure 11: *Main reasons for keeping land uncultivated (n = 129)*



For our learning purposes, these areas can focus areas in 2026 to address the problems and enhance agriculture productivity in these communities. It suggests that our programme should support the targeted communities by introducing more water efficient farming methods, improving irrigation systems and management, constructing agro-based infrastructure, and establishing community-based water management committees. Furthermore, addressing poor soil fertility largely hinges on farmers' awareness of modern farming techniques and practices for effective natural resource management. Capacity-building and knowledge exchange programmes targeting smallholder farmers can play a crucial role in this regard, focusing on practices like crop rotation and the utilisation of organic fertilisers, for example. Moreover, distributing fertilizers such as DAP and Urea can effectively meet the needs of farmers in the targeted communities, contributing significantly to their agricultural production and productivity.

3.5 Livestock productivity

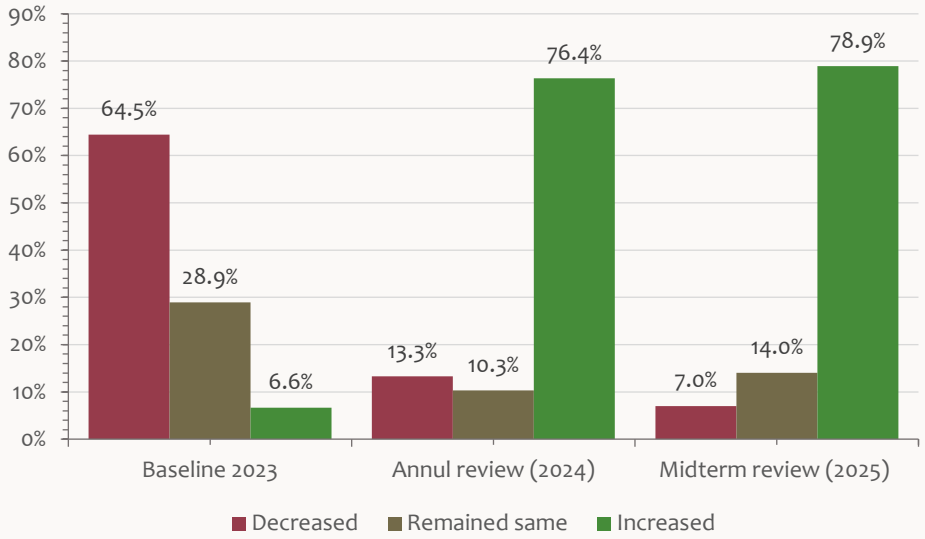
> **Outcome Indicator 3.1:** *% of supported community members reporting increased economic benefits from livestock - disaggregated by gender, disabilities and other vulnerable groups (e.g., women and elderly-headed households).*

Livestock remains one of the most important sources of income and livelihood for rural households in the target communities. During the past three years, NAC has provided smallholder herding households with a variety of livestock packages focused on small ruminants and poultry (e.g., chickens, turkeys, and quails), aimed at improving nutritional status and generating different levels of income. In addition, the programme also provides livestock-related skills exchange opportunities and trainings, along with providing a basic package of equipment to provide further opportunities for income generation.

In this midterm we asked the supported households about the economic benefits from livestock. Although the support package provided to these households (mainly women headed households) are not to big overall, large number of these supported households reporting

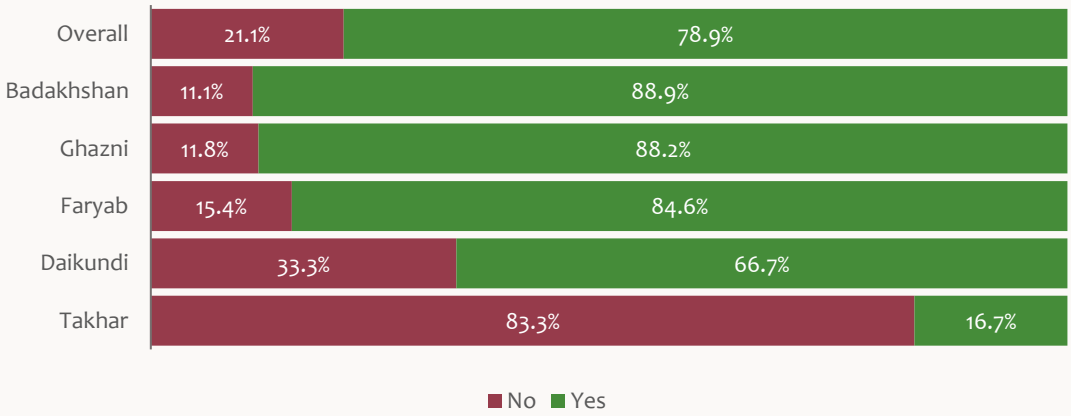
economic benefits. At the baseline there were only 6.6% who reported economic benefit from their livestock activities – it was when we just started the programme, this number increased significantly to 76.4% in 2024 and sustained with little increase in 2025 to 78.9%. The graph below illustrates the reported change in benefit from Livestock over the past three years.

Figure 12: *Households reporting increased benefit from Livestock – by year (n=57)*



One of the key activities under this initiative is to provide vulnerable households with small ruminants and poultry packages. Our activity record data shows that since 2023, ERA-II with contribution from other humanitarian projects, an overall 106,091 households were supported with these small ruminants and poultry packages. Beside the packages, NAC also provided trainings, vaccination and deworming campaign across all partner communities. Our current midterm data shows that overall, 78.9% of smallholder herders reported that they have vaccinated or dewormed their livestock in the last three years.

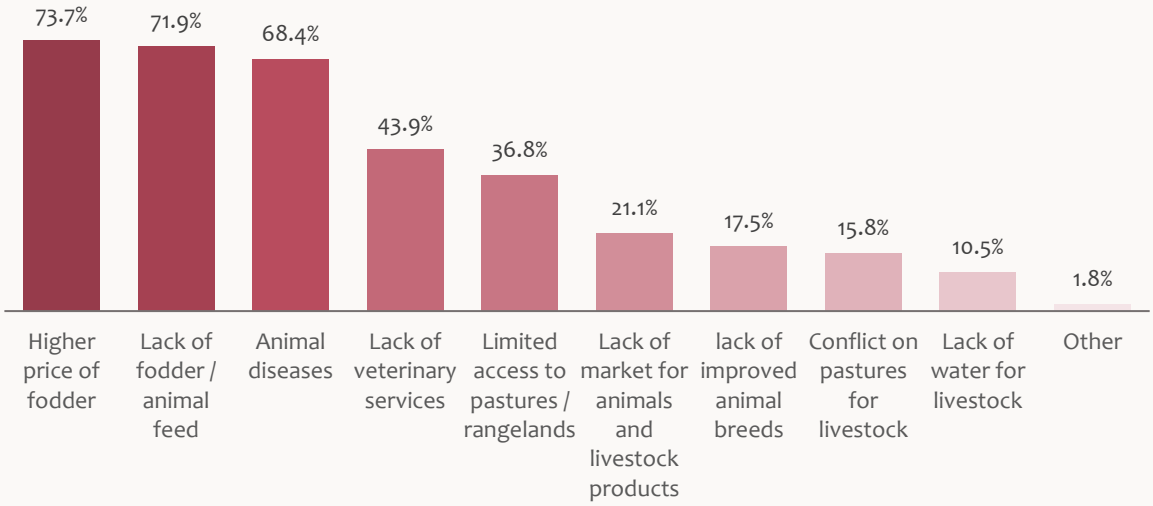
Figure 13: *Smallholder herders' animals vaccinated and / or dewormed (n = 57)*



As shown in the graph above, the highest coverage is seen in Badakhshan (88.9%), Ghazni (88.2%), Faryab (84.6%), and Daikundi (66.7%), which are our core provinces for livelihood interventions. However, in Takhar, where there were fewer interventions, 83.3% of herders reported that they did not vaccinate or deworm their livestock.

Overall, since the baseline, many households have reported increased economic benefits from livestock, but some challenges remain. In this midterm assessment, we asked the herding households about the main challenges. The biggest challenge is animal feed. As shown in the figure below, many respondents cited the high price and lack of fodder. Other challenges include animal diseases, lack of veterinary services, limited access to pastures, and lack of markets for animals and livestock products.

Figure 14: *Smallholder herders reporting main challenges in raising livestock (n = 57)*



3.6 Household income and economic benefits

> **Outcome Indicator 3.1:** *% of supported community members reported increased household income.*

Income is one of the key indicators for understanding the livelihood situation of a household. However, measuring household income in rural Afghanistan is often difficult because many households rely on traditional bartering and exchanging goods and this makes it challenging to clearly define and measure income. While acknowledging this complexity, the study sought to gain an overall understanding about the income pattern and status through analysing the different sources of household income and their contribution to the total household income. The following table summarizes the reported income sources and their respective shares in overall household income.

Table 5: *Sources of income, and their contribution.*

Main sources of income and percentage of contribution						
Sources	**Source** (1st)	**Income** (1st)	**Source** (2nd)	**Income** (2nd)	**Source** (3rd)	**Income** (3rd)
Crop production	47.4%	64.8	21.3%	27.8	4.9%	19.0
Work for others: Non-agricultural Wage labour	17.3%	72.3	14.8%	32.9	11.8%	15.7
Fruit production	4.6%	52.7	8.0%	28.5	6.6%	15.2
Work for others: Agricultural wage labour	5.1%	62.5	7.3%	30.3	2.9%	18.3
Livestock production: ruminant	3.7%	58.7	2.1%	26.7	0.9%	11.7

Small business/Petty trade/shopkeeping	9.4%	77.3	6.4%	29.3	2.4%	17.1
Salary work	7.6%	71.9	4.6%	34.2	1.4%	20.5
Remittance	4.1%	65.3	3.4%	28.1	2.6%	17.8
Assistance from the government/UN/NGOs	0.7%	74.0	0.1%	50.0	3.0%	13.3
Livestock production: back yard poultry	0.1%	60.0	2.1%	21.7	1.9%	13.5
Other	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	32.1	1.4%	14.5
Total	**100%**	**67.0**	**69%**	**24.7**	**39%**	**8.3**

As presented above, 60.9% of surveyed households reported crops, fruits, livestock production, and agro-based labour wage as their 1st source of income, accounting for 63.3% of their total household income. These same sources were identified by 40.8% of households as their 2nd source of income, contributing 27.4% to their total household income. Additionally, 17% of households reported these as their 3rd source of income, accounting for 16.1% of their overall household income. It suggests that agriculture and related activities remain the primary sources of income in our partner communities, and it means that any positive or negative changes in the agricultural productivity can directly impact household income and the overall livelihood conditions of these communities.

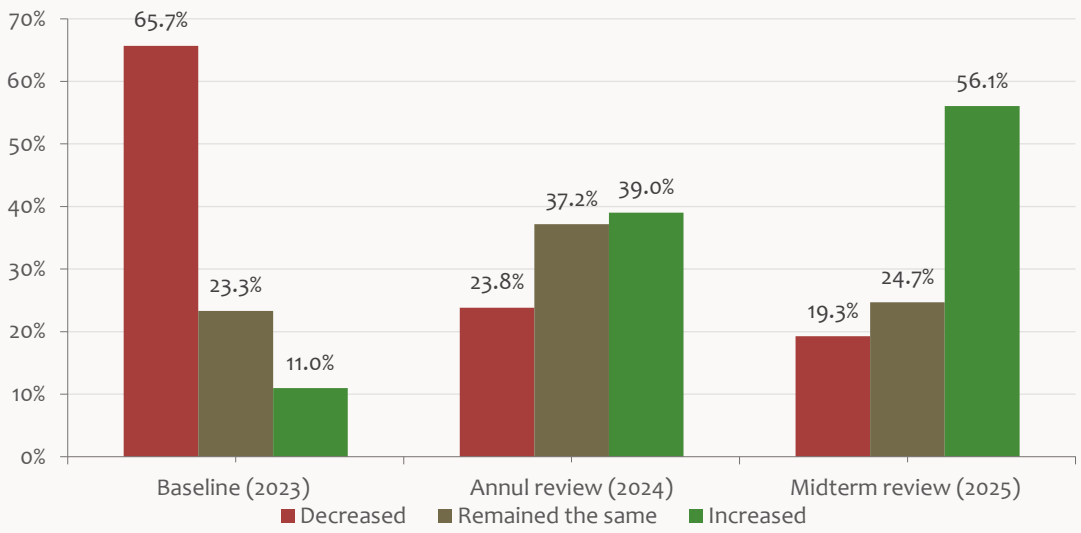
Our data also show that a great share of this household income in allocated for food. 91% of household reported food as their primary expenditure area. Health is the second expense priority. 3.4% of households reported it as their top expense, 33.5% as their second and 43.4% as their third domain of expenditure. Shelter and clothing are the third priority making 2.1% of the top priority, while as a second (44.5%) or third (29.0%), and only 1.4% reported education as first, but some households consider it as second (9.3%) or third (18.1%). The table below shows the detailed expense priorities of the surveyed households.

Table 6: *Sources of income, and their contribution.*

Expenditure domains	Expenditure (1st)	expenditure (2nd)	expenditure (3rd)
Food	91.0%	7.7%	1.0%
Health	3.4%	33.5%	43.4%
Shelter and cloths	2.1%	44.5%	29.0%
Education	1.4%	9.3%	18.1%
Ceremonies (wedding, dead, etc.)	1.6%	3.4%	6.8%
Other	0.4%	1.6%	1.7%

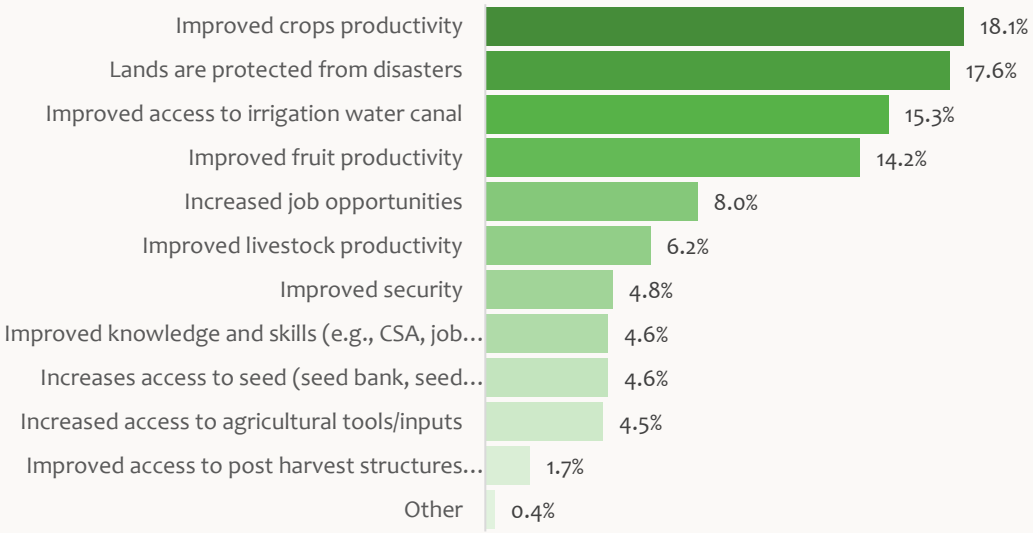
In this assessment, supported households were also asked whether their income had increased over the past three years. The results show that the percentage of households reporting improved income increased significantly from 11% at baseline to 39% in 2024, and further to 56.1% in 2025. At the same time, households reporting maintaining their income increased from 23.3% at baseline to 37.2% in 2024, before declining to 24.7% in 2025. Meanwhile, the proportion of households reporting a decrease in income dropped from 65.7% at baseline to 19.3% in 2025, indicating a positive shift in livelihoods.

Figure 15: *Household Income status change - by year (n=701)*



Multiple factors contributed to this positive shift, as reported by households in this assessment. The graph below highlights the main categories identified by respondents as key drivers of increased household income.

Figure 16: *Reasons for improvements of the income (n=420)*



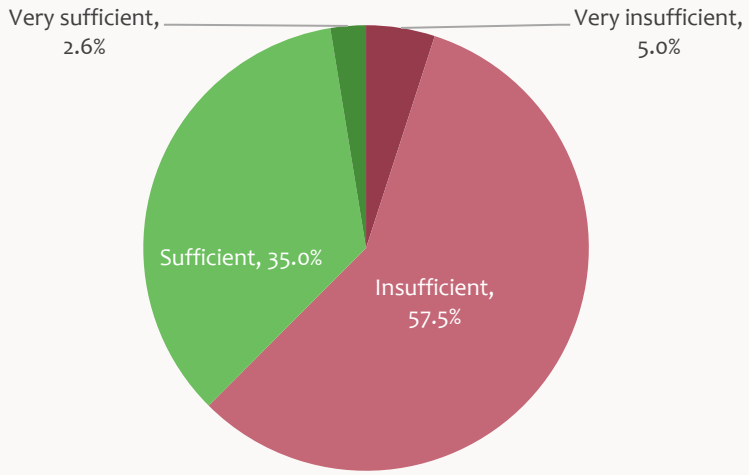
When comparing changes between female-headed and male-headed households, the data indicate a stronger improvement in livelihoods among female-headed households. At baseline, only 6.7% of female-headed households reported improved income compared to 12.9% of male-headed households. While in this assessment 64.5% female-headed households reporting improved income compared to 56.1% of male-headed households.

Despite the progress illustrated above, a notable proportion of households (19.3%) still reported a decline in their household income despite receiving support over the past three years. For our learning, we also conducted multiple tests to assess whether there is a direct positive correlation between the number of income sources and income status. The findings reveal that income decline is not limited to households with a single livelihood source; rather, it also affects those

with multiple income streams, including 48.8% of households with two sources of income and 28.9% with three sources of income. This suggests that income sources are highly interconnected, and shocks affecting one livelihood activity may have a cascading impact on others, thereby influencing overall household income stability. In terms of underlying drivers, the results show that drought (33.1%) was the most frequently reported factor negatively affecting household income, followed by reduced job opportunities (24.0%), crop diseases (15.8%), and irregular rainfall (12.2%).

To better understand income patterns and household economic condition, respondents were also asked whether their income is sufficient to cover their household expenses. The figure below illustrates the distribution of perceived income sufficiency in meeting household needs among respondents.

Figure 17: *Sufficiency of the income (n=701)*



The findings show that 37.6% of respondents reported their income as sufficient, while most of the respondents (62.5%) reported that their income is insufficient to meet their household needs.

3.7 Food security and dietary diversity

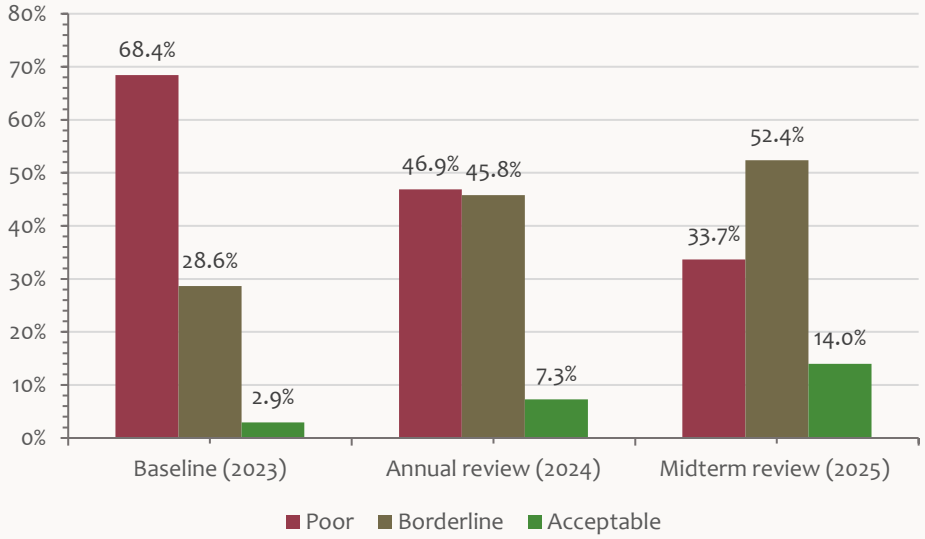
> **Objective Indicator 3:** *% of supported households with borderline or acceptable food consumption scores*

Food security has been a core objective of the ERA-II programme. During the past three years, the programme has supported vulnerable rural households through agricultural, livestock, and other livelihood interventions aimed at enhancing food availability and improving dietary diversity. The following sections present the findings of the midterm assessment on food security outcomes.

4.7.1 Food consumption scores (FCS)

In May 2026, UNDP again reported that three out of every four people in Afghanistan do not have enough food to eat[1], while findings from NAC-supported partner communities indicate relatively better conditions, with 66.3% of households assessed to have acceptable or borderline food consumption scores (FCS). This represents a significant improvement since the baseline in 2023, when only 31.6% of households were in the acceptable or borderline FCS category. The percentage of households with poor FCSs decreased from 68.4% in 2023 (baseline) to 46.9% in 2024 and further to 33.7% in 2025 (current midterm), while the proportion of households assessed to have acceptable or borderline FCSs increased from 31.6% in 2023 to 53.1% in 2024 and reached 66.3% in 2025. The figure below illustrates the progress over time.

Figure 18 : *Food consumption score - year (n = 701)*

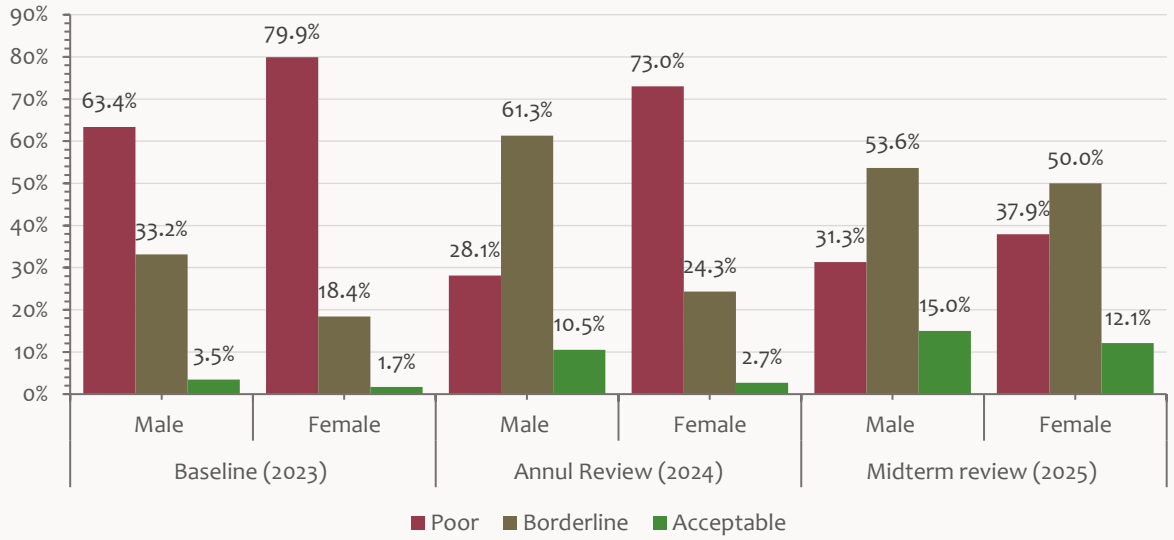


At provincial level amongst the core ERA-II targeted provinces in this midterm, Ghazni and Faryab provinces were assessed with having the highest level of food security, (52.2% borderline and 19.8% acceptable), and (43.7% borderline and 22.7% acceptable) respectively, and Badakhshan with (56.3% borderline and 9.2% of acceptable) level.

Despite the improvement in the overall FSC of female headed households the results still shows that female-headed households are reported to be more food-insecure than male-headed households; 37.9% of female-headed households were reported poor compared to 31.3% of male-headed households in this midterm. The chart below displays the FCS, disaggregated by male and female-headed households in three years.

[1] UNDP (2026). Afghanistan socioeconomic review. Available at: https://www.undp.org/afghanistan/afghanistan-socioeconomic-review

Figure 19: *Food consumption score - by gender (n = 701)*



To further learn about vulnerable groups, a test was conducted to examine FCS by household size. It is often assumed that larger households are more vulnerable due to higher consumption needs; however, the current findings show a different pattern. Households with more than seven members have a comparatively better FCS, with 30.2% in the poor category and 15.7% in the higher acceptable consumption category. In contrast, smaller households (fewer than seven members) show poorer outcomes, with 40.7% in the poor category and only 10.4% in the higher acceptable consumption category.

Overall, the data suggests that larger households tend to have slightly better FCS, likely because they include more working-age members who contribute to household income and food access. However, this finding should be interpreted with caution, as household size alone does not fully explain vulnerability. The age composition of household members as well as the number of members at work are important factors that should be further investigated, as smaller households may include a higher proportion of dependents or fewer income-earning members, which can negatively affect food access and diversity.

Similarly, when looking to the education levels, there is no clear positive correlation between higher education and improved FCS. For example, households with no schooling report 12.8% acceptable consumption, compared to only 7.5% among those with a Diploma (Grade 14), which indicates that higher or formal education does not necessarily translate into better food security outcomes at least in this context, suggesting that other factors such as income and livelihood opportunities play a more important role.

4.7.2 Household dietary diversity

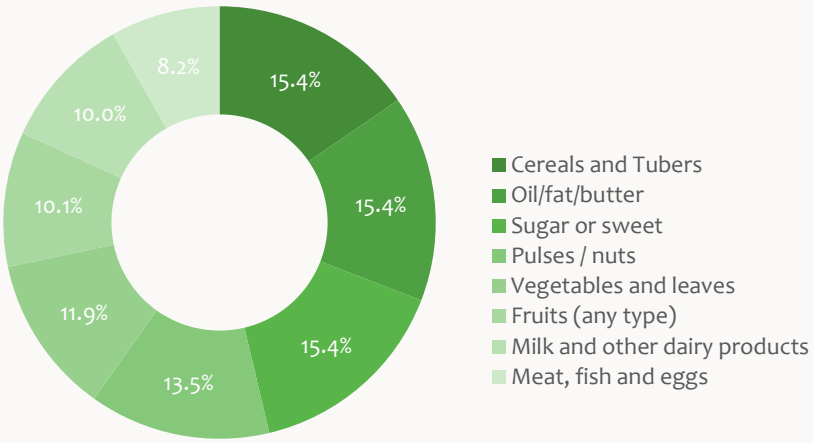
Outcome Indicator 3.1: % of supported households with 'high' dietary diversity

To learn more about the details of food consumption among surveyed households, we asked participants about different groups of foods they had consumed during the seven-day period prior to being surveyed. Aligning with the baseline of the programme, we used a household dietary diversity index (HDDI) to measure the variety of food groups consumed by household

members. Using the index, we evaluated households' dietary diversity by considering eight food groups and asked respondents to report their consumption of these groups over the past seven days. Accordingly, households that consumed food from four or fewer food groups (out of eight) over a seven-day period are categorised as having low dietary diversity.

The results of this assessment are encouraging. Overall, households surveyed demonstrated a higher level of dietary diversity, compared to baseline. At baseline, diets were heavily dominated by cereals, tubers, and oils/fats, which together accounted for 64.2% of all consumed food groups. In the current assessment, however, this reliance decreased considerably to 30.5%, indicating a notable shift away from staple-heavy diets. Instead, the consumption of more nutrient-dense food groups increased. Vegetable consumption increased from 5.9% to 11.9%, and fruit consumption increased from 4.8% to 10.1%. Furthermore, the use of protein-rich foods improved considerably: the proportion of households reporting consuming meat, fish, and eggs increased from 1.6% at baseline to 8.2% in this assessment.

Figure 20: *Food groups consumed by households (n=701)*



"If we cook rice one night, we make vegetables for the next two or three nights. Previously, people did not realize the importance of a diverse diet, especially the value of vegetables for good health".

- **Female farmer, Badakhshan, Interview.**

These gains in dietary diversity are closely linked to broader improvements in crop diversification and access to livestock products such as milk and eggs. Given the importance of vegetables in the HDDS, this assessment specifically evaluated vegetable cultivation practices among supported smallholder farmers as a key practice to improving nutrition and dietary diversity. The findings indicate that 76.8% of supported farmers are cultivating vegetables on their land, with tomato, onion, coriander, lettuce, squash, red radish, leek, okra, turnip, eggplant, and cauliflower identified as the main crops produced. Furthermore, 37.4% of farmers reported introducing new vegetable types over the past three years, reflecting increased crop diversification. This progress also underscores the contribution of programme interventions, as the vast majority of households who reported vegetable cultivation also reported receiving either training or vegetable seeds from NAC during last three years.

"This year, I planted eggplant, okra, and squash and achieved good yields. I had never grown these types of crops before".

- Smallholder farmer, Faryab, Interview

4.7.3 Consumption-based coping strategy

Despite the improvement in access to food - discussed above, 33.7% of households still have poor food consumption scores, and 52.4% demonstrates borderline score. This indicates that many households continue to face food shortages and consequently rely on various coping strategies. The coping strategy index (CSI) is used to assess how households manage these shortages by measuring the frequency of specific coping behaviours during the seven days preceding the survey. It focuses on consumption-based strategies, such as compromising food quality, reducing meal portions, or relying on external support. The most prevalent coping strategies identified from the data are as follows:

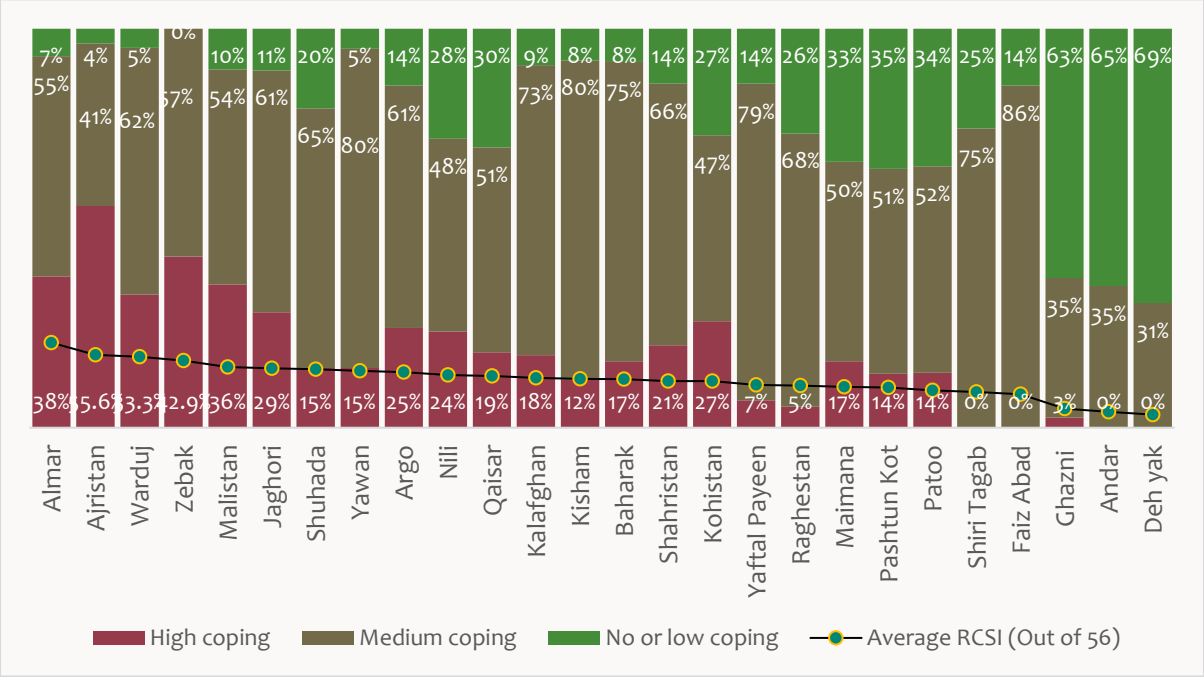
Table 7: *Coping strategies adapted by households (n = 701)*

Coping strategies	% of households utilised	# of days
Rely on less preferred and less expensive food	88.9%	2.2
Borrow food, rely on help from a friend or relative	63.9%	0.9
Limit portion size at mealtimes	50.2%	0.7
Restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat	35.4%	0.5
Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	25.4%	0.3

By assigning severity-based weights[2] to different coping strategies (1-3), the results show that 20.1% of households are engaged in high coping, 56.6% in medium coping, and 23.3% in low or no coping. The district-level CSI results show that Almar district in Faryab records the highest average coping score (21.3 out of 56), with a substantial proportion of households (38%) in the high coping category. Ajristan in Ghazni and Warduj in Badakhshan also report relatively high scores, with notable shares coping score of 18.3 and 17.8 and with percentage of 55.6% and 33.3%) respectively.

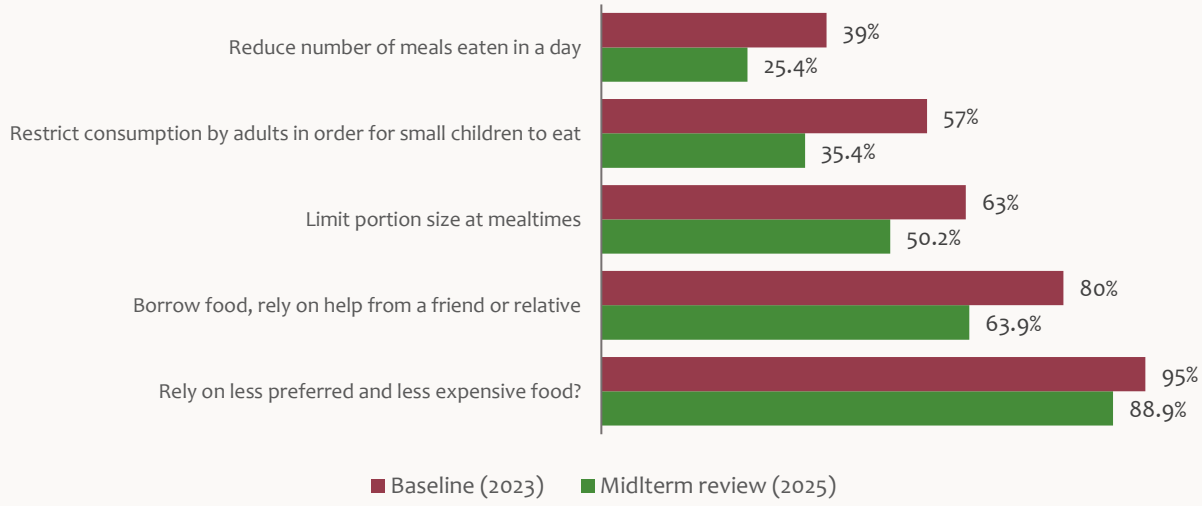
[2] The index is calculated by assigning weights to different coping strategies based on severity. Each strategy is multiplied by the number of days it was used (0–7 days) and then summed to produce a total score.

Figure 211: *Reduced coping strategy index – by district (n = 664)*



The most commonly used coping strategy is relying on less preferred and less expensive foods. According to the survey data, 88.2% of households reported using this strategy, on average, for 2.2 days per week. However, when compared to the 2023 baseline, the findings indicate a relative improvement. In 2023, 95% of households used this coping strategy for an average of three days per week. Similar improvements are observed across other coping strategies. Borrowing food or relying on help from friends or relatives decreased from 80% in 2023 to 63.9% in 2025. Limiting portion sizes at mealtimes declined from 63% to 50.2%, restricting adult consumption to allow children to eat reduced from 57% to 35.4%, and reducing the number of meals eaten per day fell from 39% to 25.4%.

Figure 22: *Percentage of households using at least one coping strategy in the past 7 days- by year (n=701)*



Overall, households often rely heavily on dietary simplification and borrowing food during food stress periods. The findings show a moderate improvement in coping capacity in the supported provinces. While less preferred food consumption remains widespread, the reduced use of more

severe coping strategies such as meal reduction indicates a gradual stabilization in household food access. However, the continued reliance on less preferred and less expensive food choices shows that dietary pressure remains, particularly in more vulnerable rural districts.

3.8 Resilience to the impact of natural disasters

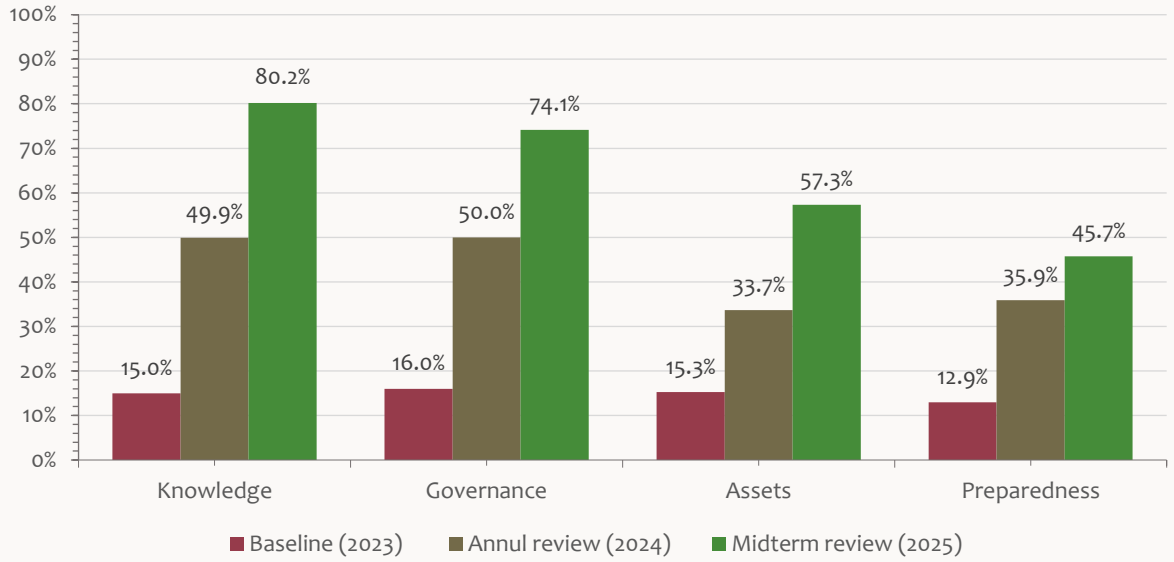
> **Objective Indicator 3:** *% of supported communities demonstrate improved resilience to the impact of natural disasters.*
> ***Outcome Indicator 3.4:*** *% of supported communities enabled to effectively prepare for and respond to natural disasters*
> ***Outcome Indicator 3.4:*** *% of supported communities have improved access to DRR infrastructure*

Afghanistan continues to face frequent climate and natural hazards, including drought, floods, landslides, heavy snowfall, avalanches, and earthquakes. These events regularly affect rural communities by damaging homes, farmland, and other community infrastructures which are the main sources of income for most households. In this context, strengthening community resilience remains a key priority. Through ERA-II, and over the past three years, a range of activities and initiatives have been implemented to enhance disaster resilience in the targeted communities in terms of promoting and governance to the DRR activities, improve awareness and knowledge, investing in DRR assets and preparedness measures. These includes the construction of protective infrastructure and strengthening of early response capacities in our partner communities in Badakhshan, Faryab, Ghazni, Daikundi, and Takhar. Collectively, these efforts aim to improve the resilience of partner communities to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change.

This midterm is intended to measure progress in strengthening resilience compared to the baseline situation. It assesses the extent to which communities have enhanced their capacity to manage risks related to climate change and natural disasters, as well as the effectiveness of DRR-related interventions implemented at the community level. The findings presented in the following sections highlight the changes observed over the project period and provide evidence of how community resilience has evolved over time.

Our finding shows clear progress since the baseline. The proportion of supported communities demonstrating improved resilience to natural disasters increased from 14.56% in 2023 (baseline) to 42.4% in 2024 and further increased to 64.3% in midterm 2025.

Figure 23: *Resilience to climate change and natural disasters demonstrated - by year (n = 171)*



Looking at key resilience indicators such as governance, community knowledge and aspirations, community DRR assets, and preparedness capacity, improvements have been observed across all areas. The percentage of communities reporting established governance structures increased significantly, from 16% in 2023 to 50% in 2024, and further to 74.1% in 2025. This reflects the establishment and strengthens functionality of DRR committees such as CDMCs. The findings show that CDMCs and communities have made meaningful progress in understanding risks and establishing governance structures, which reflect positive institutional development at the community level.

A similar trend is observed in the indicator measuring community members' awareness and knowledge of climate change, where communities demonstrate relatively strong capacity, increasing from 15% at baseline to 80.2% at midterm. This indicates that communities are now more aware and better equipped to deal with climate-related shocks compared to the baseline period.

In terms of access to assets such as disaster risk reduction (DRR) infrastructure, the baseline level was 15.3% in 2023. This increased to 33.7% in 2024 and further to 57.3% in 2025. This suggests that while tools and basic resources are becoming more available, long-term financial investments and infrastructure remain limited in many communities.

In addition, the overall preparedness capacity in the targeted communities increased from 12.9% at baseline to 35.9% in the 2024 annual review and further reached 45.7% in 2025. The table below summarizes the key indicators and their achieved values.

Table 8: *Disaster Resilience Index*

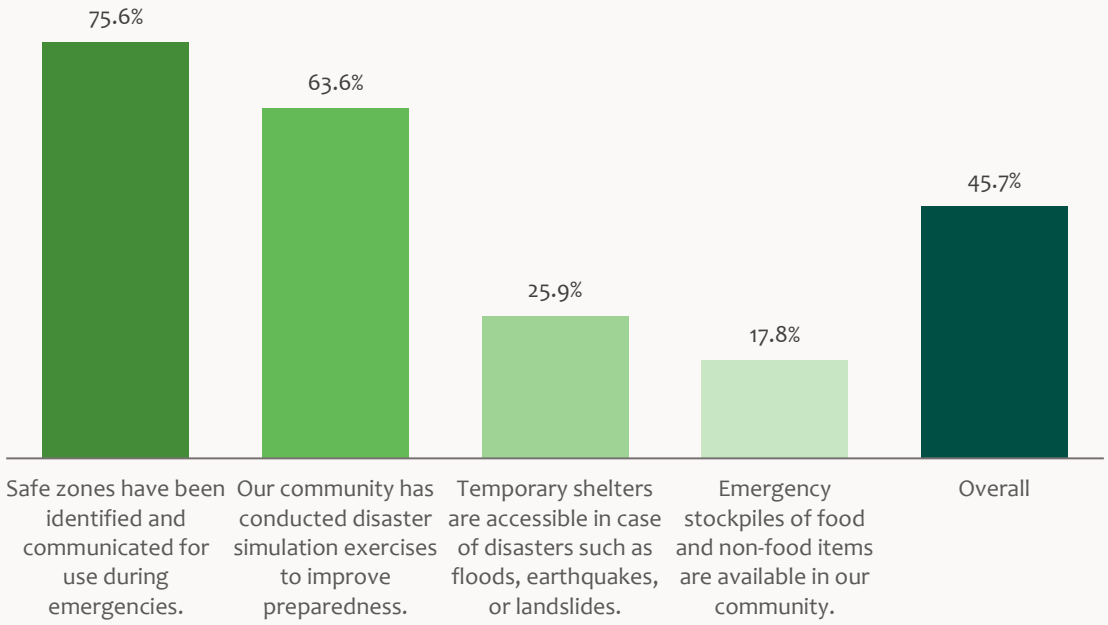
No	Variables	Indicators	Rate
1	Community knowledge, aspirations, and capacity	A comprehensive Hazard, Vulnerability, and Capacity Assessment (HVCA) is conducted in our community.	78.5%
		Hazard maps have been developed and are used to understand local disaster risks.	82.5%
		Early warning systems are in place and effectively inform us before disasters occur.	81.6%

		Awareness campaigns and DRR messages have been effectively shared in our community.	81.0%
		Community members understand how to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.	77.9%
		CDMC members have received sufficient training on disaster risk reduction (DRR).	79.5%
			80.2%
2	Governance	Our community has an active and functional Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC).	80.8%
		The CDMC effectively supports community members in disaster preparedness and response.	76.0%
		The District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) provides strong support to our CDMC.	67.4%
		A Community-based Disaster Management Plan (CBDMP) has been developed and is used.	76.9%
		We have access to contact information for responsible staff from INGOs and government agencies in case of disaster.	69.4%
			74.1
3	Economic and Physical Assets	Disaster-protective infrastructure (e.g., protection walls, gabion walls) has been built or rehabilitated in our community.	49.1%
		Our community actively engages in planting saplings and drought-resilient seeds to reduce disaster impacts.	62.7%
		DRR tools and resource packages are available and accessible in our community.	83.2%
		Our community has mobilized resources to strengthen disaster preparedness and response.	61.0%
		Emergency savings or contributions are available in our community to support disaster response.	30.4%
			57.3%
4	Disaster Preparedness	Safe zones have been identified and communicated for use during emergencies.	75.6%
		Our community has conducted disaster simulation exercises to improve preparedness.	63.6%
		Emergency stockpiles of food and non-food items are available in our community.	17.8%
		Temporary shelters are accessible in case of disasters such as floods, earthquakes, or landslides.	25.9%
			45.7 %
		Resilience to climate change and natural disaster	**64.3%**

As summarised, the preparedness is one of the key indicators in this index which refer to how well communities can take practical actions in the face of disaster. This includes having clear plans, conducting drills, identifying safe locations, and ensuring that basic resources such as shelters and emergency supplies are available when needed. In rural Afghanistan, where access to external support can be limited during emergencies, these capacities are critical for reducing losses and protecting lives. Therefore, in this assessment we also dived into key practical elements of disaster preparedness and response at community level to understand how ready communities are during actual emergencies. The findings show that relatively high proportion of respondents (75.6%) reported that safe zones have been identified and clearly communicated for use during emergencies. In addition, 63.6% of communities have conducted disaster simulation exercises, which show progress in improving awareness and basic preparedness actions. However, access to temporary shelters and emergency stockpiles remain limited. Only 25.9% of communities reported having access to temporary shelters, and an even smaller proportion

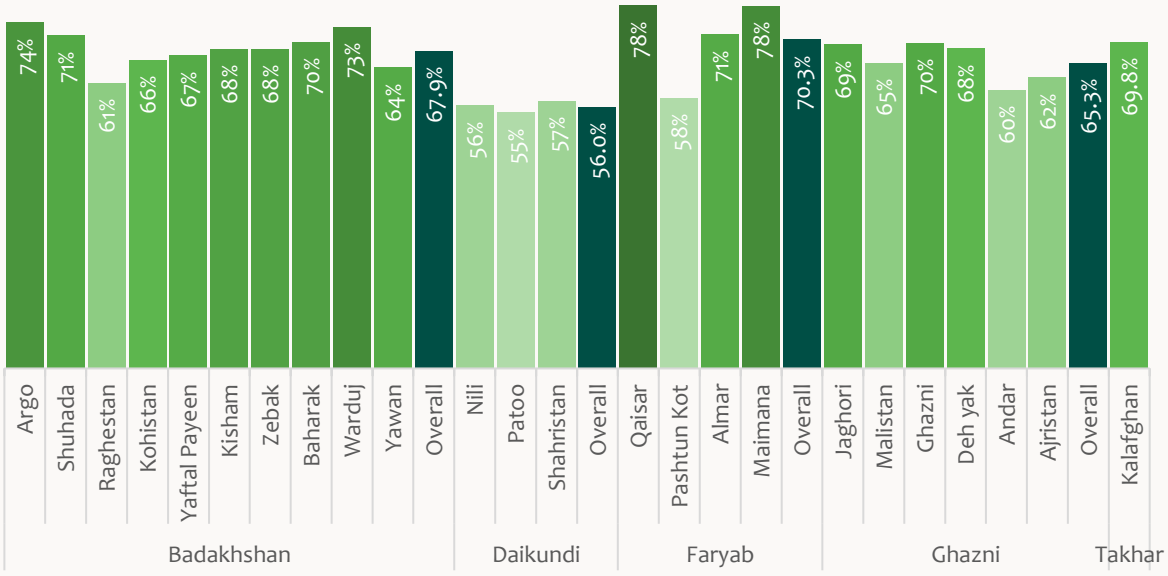
(17.8%) confirmed the availability of emergency stockpiles of food and non-food items. These are critical gaps, especially in situations where immediate external support may not be available.

Figure 24: *Preparedness to natural disasters (n = 171)*



The result by province shows a relatively consistent improvement across all provinces, with resilience levels recorded at 70.3% in Faryab, 69.8% in Takhar, 67.9% in Badakhshan, 65.3% in Ghazni, and 56.0% in Daikundi. The following graph illustrates the demonstrated resilience of communities to natural disasters across targeted provinces and districts.

Figure 25 : *Resilience to climate change and natural disasters demonstrated - by district (n = 171)*



Overall, the findings show that while resilience to disasters has improved across all provinces, the level of progress varies, with some areas demonstrating stronger resilience than others due to differences in access to resources, and infrastructure.

3.9 Dialogue and conflict transformation – a crosscutting theme

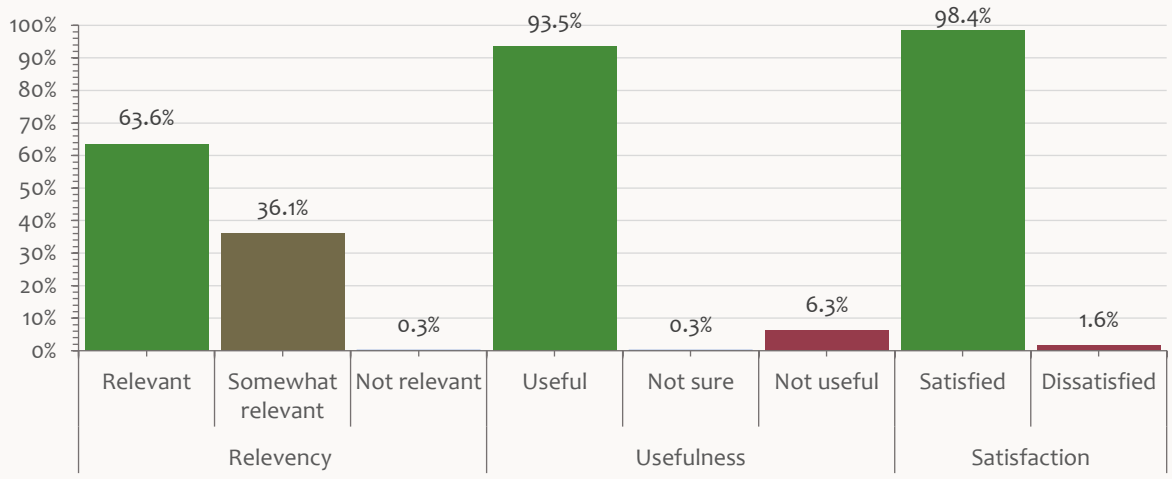
Dialogue and conflict transformation is a cross-cutting theme across all NAC programmes and initiatives, including the programme under this review. With technical support from the Nansen Centre for Peace and Dialogue, the programme has promoted this approach as a practical tool for strengthening trust among community members, transforming disputes over community shared resources such as land and water, and enhancing collaboration within communities and community-based structures such as self-help groups (SHGs), smallholder farmer associations, and NRM and DRR committees. As part of NRM and livelihood activities, we provided trainings to farmers, SHG members, and NRM and DRR committee. In 2025 alone, over 7,500 community members received training in dialogue and conflict transformation.

In this midterm we assessed participant feedback and practical outcomes of these interventions over the past three years, with a focus on participant satisfaction, perceived relevance, and application and usefulness of acquired skills.

The findings indicate highly positive participant feedback across these key dimensions. Overall, 98.4% of respondents reported satisfaction with dialogue training and related sessions, including 45.7% who were very satisfied and 52.7% who were satisfied. Only a very small proportion expressed dissatisfaction. Participants also reported strong perceptions of relevance, with 63.6% considering the training relevant to their family and community contexts, while 36.1% viewed it as somewhat relevant. Only 0.3% considered the training not relevant.

The assessment further explored participants' perceptions of the usefulness of dialogue and conflict transformation approaches in reducing or managing tensions and conflicts at both family and community levels. Findings indicate strongly positive feedback, with a substantial majority of respondents (93.5%) considering the training useful. Only 0.3% were uncertain, while 6.3% reported that they did not find it useful. These findings suggest that most participants perceive the training as providing practical value and relevant knowledge for addressing everyday challenges within their households and communities.

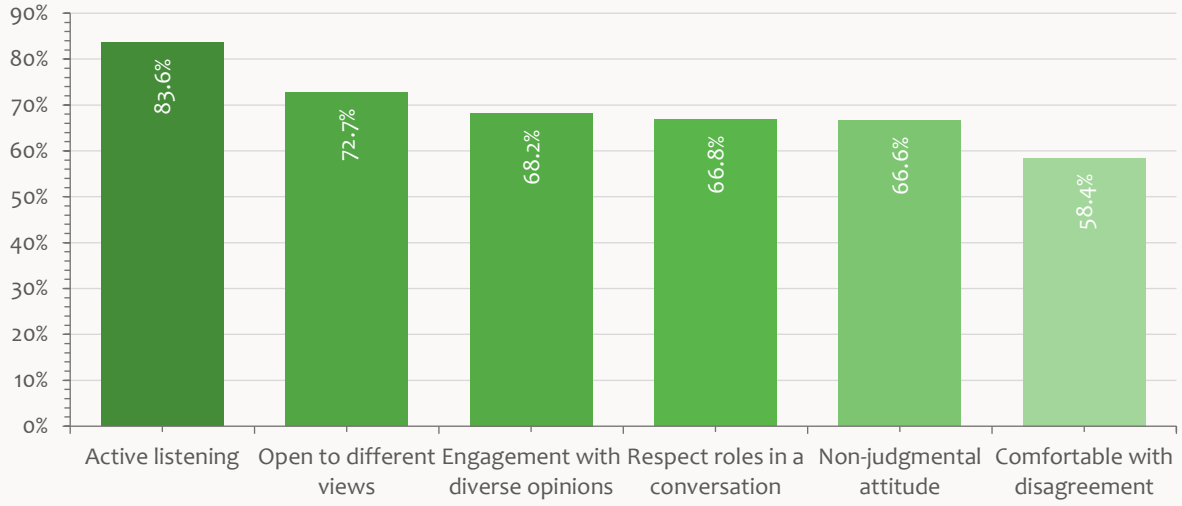
Figure 26: Participant satisfaction, perceived relevance, and self-reported application of dialogue and conflict transformation training (n=368)



Building on these, the assessment also assessed the extent to which participants reported the adaptation of specific dialogue-related practices/skills in their daily works and conversations at household and community levels.

Among the reported practices, active listening was the most prominent, with 83.6% of respondents indicating that they practice this skill. This was followed by openness to different views (72.7%), engagement with diverse opinions (68.2%), respect for roles in conversation (66.8%), and maintaining a non-judgmental attitude (66.6%). In addition, 58.4% of participants reported their comfort with disagreement in a conversation, suggesting increased capacity to engage constructively in situations involving differing perspectives.

Figure 27: *Promotion of dialogue skills by community members (n=368)*



"At home, instead of arguing with my wife over issues related to our children and their behaviour, I chose listening and patience as the result of understanding the importance of dialogue at the training. Through dialogue, we resolve our disagreements peacefully".

- Male community member, Daikundi, Interview.

Two families in our village had been fighting over a piece of land for years. Sometimes it became violent. The whole community felt the tension.

We had received training from NAC on dialogue. So, we stepped in to support them by creating a space where they could listen to each other. Our role was not to solve – we learned that our role is not to decide. We just facilitated the conversation, as it was difficult to happen without our intervention.

We invited both families to sit together with village elders. We practiced active listening – no interrupting, no taking sides. We let each family speak fully. We repeated back what we heard. We asked gentle questions to help them explain not just what they wanted, but why it mattered. Slowly, they began to hear each other, and we noticed that something was shifting. One of them said: 'I did not know that is how you saw it'.

They still disagreed about the land. But they agreed to keep talking and hearing each other… After multiple meetings and conversations, the families [not us] found a solution together and they agreed and sign a written agreement. They visited each other's homes again.

A CDMC member in Ghazni

Although these findings are primarily based on self-reported behavioural changes, they nonetheless indicate promising progress toward broader goal to build trust, strengthened social cohesion, and facilitate conflict transformation in our partner communities.

5. CONCLUSION AND LEARNING

The midterm findings confirm that ERA-II has made strong and consistent progress towards its expected outcomes covered in this report: livelihoods, food security, and resilience to natural hazards. These results have been achieved despite ongoing instability and crises in the country. The review documents that our partner communities under ERA-II, among other things, have active DRR and NRM committees with clear roles to prepare for and respond to natural disasters and manage natural resources. Smallholder farmers have learned new agricultural practices, adopted climate smart agriculture, and increased their yields. Communities have gained access to agro based infrastructure that has opened more land for cultivation and protected them from natural hazards. Women supported through SHGs, MSMEs, and other livelihood activities are contributing to household income despite the restrictions imposed on them.

At the same time, several gaps remain. Many households still reporting insufficient income to fully cover their basic household needs. Dietary quality is still poor in many households and reliance on consumption-based coping strategies is high. A large portion of land owned by farmers remains uncultivated reportedly due to water scarcity, poor soil fertility, and persistent climate shocks. Livestock production is constrained by high fodder costs, feed shortages, and weak veterinary services. Market access for agricultural and livestock products remains difficult for many households.

With one year remaining in the programme cycle, the following learning points - drawn from the midterm findings - and expected to inform how the programme focuses its remaining effort and how future phases are designed.

Adopting climate smart practices leads to better productivity in drought affected communities: Afghanistan is among the most climate vulnerable countries in the world, and the rural communities where ERA-II works experience this through recurring drought and reduced water availability for irrigation, which have significantly altered agricultural conditions. Many crop varieties and saplings that communities have traditionally cultivated were suited to historically more stable water conditions and are increasingly underproductive or failing under current climate realities.

The midterm assessment provides evidence that the adoption of climate smart agricultural practices leads to measurably better outcomes. Among farmers who reported improved or sustained agricultural productivity, the large majority had adopted practices such as drought tolerant seed varieties, climate adapted saplings, crop rotation, and organic composting. These findings suggest a clear positive relationship between climate smart practice adoption and productivity outcomes in drought affected communities. This means while recognising and building on the traditional practices that remain well suited to local conditions, embedding climate adaptability as a guiding measure in our agricultural support activities would strengthen the relevance and sustainability of programme outcomes, both in the remaining implementation period and in future programme design.

Agro-based infrastructure is an effective livelihood lever - and communities are ready to take the lead: Of the 59.9% of households that reported improved livelihoods, 40.7% directly attributed this to access to productive infrastructure - particularly irrigation canals. In communities where NAC has supported with the construction canals, farmers report bringing more land under cultivation, achieving higher yields, and in some cases resolving water sharing disputes that had persisted for years. Despite these gains, the midterm findings show that the needs for more infrastructures

persist and a large portion of agricultural land owned by farmers still remained uncultivated largely due to lack of irrigation infrastructures. It is not feasible for NAC to construct infrastructure projects for every community. Therefore, the learning here is that the programme should further focus on strengthening community mechanisms, including mobilisations and supporting community-level structures such as lead and follow farmer associations, NRM and DRR committees so that communities themselves can identify, plan, and invest in new infrastructure projects. NAC's own evidence supports the case for this: the return on investment for agro-based infrastructure is in most cases realised within three years, giving communities a concrete economic argument to mobilise local resources and initiate projects without waiting for external support. Building this capacity for community led infrastructure investment will extend the reach of ERA II's infrastructure work beyond what NAC can directly implement.

Women face restrictions - yet opportunities exist and can be expanded: The restrictions placed on women in Afghanistan are a reality that affect communities across all provinces, in both rural and urban areas. At the same time, the midterm findings present a more nuanced picture. In the domain of rural livelihoods such as agriculture, livestock, and small business, women are active contributors. The data shows that female headed households performed better then male headed households on livelihood improvement (70.6% vs. 54.1%) and income growth (64.5% vs. 56.1%). Livestock economic benefits among women increased from 4.2% at baseline to 78.9% at midterm.

The lesson is not that restrictions do not exist - they do. The lesson is that within rural livelihoods, there are real and meaningful opportunities for women to work and contribute, and that targeted, context sensitive programming can expand these further. The programme should continue working and investing in the activities, initiatives, and structures such as SHGs, MSMEs, women's farmer associations, female DRR committees, household-level livestock support, and home gardening - while also continuing to identify further areas where barriers are fewer and women can work side by side with men.

6. ANNEXES:

ANNEX I: Acronyms

CBDMP	Community-based Disaster Management Plan
CDMC	Community Disaster Management Committee
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
CSI	Coping Strategy Index
DAP	Diammonium Phosphate
DDMC	District Disaster Management Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EF	Ecological Farming
ERA-II	Empowering Rural Afghanistan – II
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HDDI	Household Dietary Diversity Index
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Score
HVCA	Hazard, Vulnerability, and Capacity Assessment
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MS Excel	Microsoft Excel
NAC	Norwegian Afghanistan Committee
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NVivo	Qualitative Data Analysis Software
ODK	Open Data Kit
RCSI	Reduced Coping Strategy Index
SHG	Self-Help Group
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

Annex II: List of figures

Annex III: Household Survey Questionnaire

ERA II Midterm Assessment 2025

Household Survey Questionnaire

Important Note for Enumerators: Please get consent **BEFORE** you start filling in the questionnaire.

Hello, my name is (_____), I am working with Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC). Your household has been randomly selected to participate in this assessment. We want to learn about the situation of households that have participated in NAC activities so that we can understand better the current situations in your community, and the result of our programmes. Your responses will be confidential, the data will be used anonymously, and your name will not be disclosed anywhere. You have the right to stop at any time during the survey or avoid responding to any question. This questionnaire will take approximately 45 - 60 minutes to complete. And you must be over 18 years old to participate in this study.

Consent: I consent to participating in this study and am happy to complete this questionnaire.
0 = No, 1 = Yes if no, go to the end of the questionnaire and say thank you.

A. Basic Information

No	Question	Answer
A1	Program / Donor: *[Multiple Choice]*	1 = ERA II 2 = Other
A2	Survey date:	[Select date automatically from your tablet]
A3	Surveyor name:	[Insert text here]
A4	Province: [Single Choice]	1 = Badakhshan 2 = Daikundi 3 = Faryab 4 = Ghazni 5 = Kapisa 6 = Paktia 7 = Takhar
A5	District: *[Single Choice]*	*[Select district from the list]*
A6	Village / Community name:	*[Insert text here]*

B. Household DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

No	Question	Answer
B1	Is the respondent head of household? *[Single Choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes
B2	Head of Household type: *[Multiple Choice]*	1 = Women Headed 2 = Male Headed 3 = Child Headed 4 = Headed by person with disability and disabling health condition 5 = Elderly Headed (65 and above)
B3	Respondent's name: *[Single Choice]*	*[Insert text here]*

B4	Respondent's gender: *[Single Choice]*	1 = Female 2 = Male
B5	Respondent's contact number:	*[Insert contact number here]*
B6	Respondent's age:	*[Insert number here]*
B7	Respondent's marital status: *[Single Choice]*	1 = Single 2 = Married 3 = Divorced 4 = Widowed 5 = Prefer not to answer
B8	Respondent's education level: *[Single Choice]*	1 = No schooling 2 = Informal education (Islamic studies) 3 = Primary education 4 = Lower secondary education 5 = Upper secondary education 6 = Diploma (Grade 14) 7 = Bachelor and higher
B9	Disability status of respondent: *[Single Choice]*	1 = Disabled – not able to work 2 = Disabled – able to work 3 = No disability
B10	Employment status of respondent: *[Single Choice]*	1 = Official employment 2 = Daily wage labour 3 = Self-employed[3] 5 = Out of work / not earning 6 = Other
B11	Respondent type: *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Smallholder farmer 2 = Smallholder herder 3 = SHG member 4 = DRR committee member 5 = NRM committee member
B12	Please indicate number of household members based on below gender and age disaggregation.	

Total HH member	0-5 years old 5 0		6-17 years old 17 6		18-64 years old 64 18		65 and above 65	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
|_____|	|_____|	|_____|	|_____|	|_____|	|_____|	|_____|	|_____|	|_____|

B13	Has your household participated in one or more of NAC activities in the last three years? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Health 2 = Education 3 = Dialogue and Disagreement Management 4 = Disaster Risk Reduction 5 = Agriculture & Livestock 6 = Business activities (SHG/TVET) 7 = Humanitarian assistance 8 = Others, please specify

C. Household Income & Spending

Target group: All community members

[3] *Ex: Farmer, Shopkeeper, Driver, etc.*

No	Question	Answer
C1	What are the household's main sources of income? *[Multiple Choice]*	1 = Crops production 2 = Fruit production 3 = Livestock production: ruminant 4 = Livestock production: back yard poultry 5 = Work for others: Agricultural wage labour 6 = Work for others: Non-agricultural Wage labour 7 = Salary work 8 = Remittance 9 = Small business / Petty trade / shopkeeping 10 = Assistance from government/UN/NGOs 11 = Others, please specify
C2	How much is your household yearly income from these sources (in percentage)?	*[Insert number here]*
C3	How many HH members contribute to the household income?	*[Insert number here]*
C4	How has your household income changed since last year? *[Single Choice]*	1 = Significantly decreased 2 = Decreased 3 = Remained the same 4 = Increased 5 = Significantly increased
C5	What are the main household's expenditures in the last year in order of priority? *[Multiple Choice]*	1 = Food 2 = Shelter and cloths 3 = Health 4 = Education 5 = Ceremonies (wedding, dead, etc.) 6 = Other, please specify 1st expenditure _____ 2nd expenditure _____ 3rd expenditure _____
C6	Was the household yearly income sufficient to cover the household yearly expenses in the last year? *[Single Choice]*	1 = Very insufficient 2 = Insufficient 3 = Sufficient 4 = Very sufficient
C7	How have livelihood opportunities for your household changed since the last three years? *[Single Choice]*	1 = Decreased a lot 2 = Decreased 3 = Remained the same 4 = Increased 5 = Increased a lot

C8	If C7 = 4,5, what type of improvement have you experienced? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Improved access to irrigation water canal 2 = lands are protected from disasters 3 = Improved crops productivity 4 = Improved fruit productivity 5 = Increased access to agricultural tools/inputs 6 = Improved livestock productivity 7 = Improved knowledge and skills (e.g., CSA, job skills, etc.) 8 = Increased job opportunities 9 = Improved access to post harvest structures (processing centres and/or cold storages) 10 = Increased access to seed resources (seed bank, seed exchange, etc.) 11 = Improved security 12 = Other, please specify
C9	If C7= 1,2, what were the main reasons? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Drought 2 = Flood 3 = Landslide 4 = Avalanches 5 = Frost/Hailstorm 6 = Irregular rainfall 7 = Crop pest/diseases 8 = Reduced employment rate 9 = Insecurity 10 = Death of HH head/member 11 = Displacement 12 = Introduced poor practices and services by NAC 13 = Reliance on humanitarian assistances 14 = Other, please specify

D. DISASTER Risk Reduction

Target group: All community members

On a scale of 1 – 5 ((1 = Strongly disagree, 5 = Strongly agree), how do you rate the following statements on Disaster Risk Reduction. Each statement reflects a degree of presence, effectiveness, or awareness, making it suitable for nuanced community feedback.

#	Statements	Response
Priority 1: Understanding Disaster Risk		
D1	A comprehensive Hazard, Vulnerability, and Capacity Assessment (HVCA) is conducted in our community.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
D2	Hazard maps have been developed and are used to understand local disaster risks.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
D3	Early warning systems are in place and effectively inform us before disasters occur.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree

		5 = Strongly agree
D4	Awareness campaigns and DRR messages have been effectively shared in our community.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
D5	Community members understand how to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
D6	CDMC members have received sufficient training on disaster risk reduction (DRR).	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
Priority 2: Strengthening Disaster Governance		
D7	Our community has an active and functional Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC).	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
D8	The CDMC effectively supports community members in disaster preparedness and response.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
D9	The District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) provides strong support to our CDMC.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
D10	A Community-based Disaster Management Plan (CBDMP) has been developed and is used.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
D11	We have access to contact information for responsible staff from INGOs and government agencies in case of disaster.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
Priority 3: Investment in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience		
D12	Disaster-protective infrastructure (e.g., protection walls, gabion walls) has been built or rehabilitated in our community.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
D13	Our community actively engages in planting saplings and drought-resilient seeds to reduce disaster impacts.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree

		5 = Strongly agree
D14	DRR tools and resource packages are available and accessible in our community.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
D15	Our community has mobilized resources to strengthen disaster preparedness and response.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
D16	Emergency savings or contributions are available in our community to support disaster response.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
Priority 4: Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response & Recovery		
D17	Safe zones have been identified and communicated for use during emergencies.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
D18	Our community has conducted disaster simulation exercises to improve preparedness.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
D19	Emergency stockpiles of food and non-food items are available in our community.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree
D20	Temporary shelters are accessible in case of disasters such as floods, earthquakes, or landslides.	1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree

E. Smallholder FARMERS

Target group: Smallholder farmers

No	Question	Response
E1	Are any infrastructures constructed / rehabilitated by NAC in your community? *[Multiple choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes
E2	If yes, what type of infrastructure project constructed / rehabilitated in your community?	1 = Agro-based productive infrastructure 2 = Agro-based protective infrastructure 3 = Other
E3	If yes, have you benefited from the infrastructure project? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes

E4	How effective have these infrastructure projects been in improving the productivity or protectivity? *[Single choice]*	1 = Not effective at all 2 = Somewhat effective 3 = Very effective	
E5	If infrastructure projects do not improve productivity/protectivity, what are the main reasons? *[Multiple Choice]*	1 = Poor quality of structure 2 = Wrong site selection 3 = Poor design of infrastructure 4 = Conflicts on using the structure 5 = Other, please specify.	
E6	What other changes does the infrastructures bring on in your community?	*[Insert text here]*	
E7	Is there a need for construction / rehabilitation of more productive and protective infrastructures to support agricultural productivity and improve resilience to natural disasters in your community? *[Single Choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes	
E8	If yes, what main productive and / or protective infrastructures are needed? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Irrigation canal 2 = Gabion wall 3 = Check-dams 4 = Protection wall 5 = Water reservoir 6 = Trench 7 = Water intake 8 = Pipe scheme 9 = Siphon 10 = Cold storage 11 = Aqueduct 12 = Others, please specify	
E9	How much arable land did your household own or have access to last year? (In Jerib)	Irrigated land	[Insert number here]
		Rain-fed land	[Insert number here]
E10	From the arable land owned or accessed to by your household, how much did you cultivate last year? (In Jerib)	Irrigated land	[Insert number here]
		Rain-fed land	[Insert number here]
E11	If E9 is less than E8, What were the main three reasons to leave your land uncultivated? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Lack of seeds 2 = Poor soil fertility 3 = Pests/Weeds/crop diseases 4 = Lack of fertilizers 5 = Lack of irrigation water 6 = Lack of agriculture tools 7 = Lack of Labor 8 = Insecurity 9 = Natural disasters 10 = Conflicts on land 11 = No need to cultivate 12 = Other, please specify	

E12	Please describe jeribs of land allocated for the following crops, the number of seed cultivated, and the number of yields gained?			
#	Crops	Jeribs of land allocated	Cultivate (in Ser) ( )	Yield (In Ser) ( )
1	Wheat			
2	Rice			
3	Barley			

4	Corn			
5	Potato			
6	Onion			
7	Bean			
8	Chickpea			
9	Sesame			
10	Linseed			

E13	How has your agricultural productivity / yield changed in the last three years? *[Single choice]*	1 = Decreased a lot 2 = Decreased a little 3 = Remained same 4 = Increased a little 5 = Increased a lot
E14	If decreased, what were the main reasons? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Lack of irrigation water 2 = Lack of quality seed 3 = Poor soil fertility 4 = Pests and diseases 5 = Lack of farming skills and knowledge 6 = Natural disaster (Frost, Flood, Hailstorm, etc.) 7 = Other, please specify
E15	If increased, what were the main reasons? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Learned and adopted proper cultivation methods 2 = Received quality seed / inputs 3 = Improved access to irrigation water (Infrastructure) 4 = Protected land from natural disasters 5 = Effective management of natural resources by CSOs 6 = Community farmers are linked to markets 7 = Other, please specify
E16	Did you cultivate vegetables in your land or house last year? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes
E17	If yes, what type of vegetables did you cultivate in your land or house this year? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Turnip 2 = Tomato 3 = Eggplant 4 = Okra 5 = Squash 6 = Cauliflower 7 = Lettuce 8 = Coriander 9 = Onion 10 = Red radish 11 = Leek 12 = Others, please specify
E18	Do you grow these vegetables for the household consumption or you also sale them in the market? *[Single choice]*	1 = Only for the household consumption 2 = Only for selling in the market 3 = Both own consumption and market
E19	Do you have access to vegetables seeds in the local market? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes

E20	Have you grown any new types of vegetables in the last three years? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes
E21	If yes, which new vegetables have you grown? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Turnip 2 = Tomato 3 = Eggplant 4 = Okra 5 = Squash 6 = Cauliflower 7 = Lettuce 8 = Coriander 9 = Onion 10 = Red radish 11 = Leek 12 = Others, please specify
E22	Have you received any agriculture input or support from NAC in the last three years? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes
E23	If yes, what agricultural input or support have you received from NAC in the last three years? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Certified seed 2 = Fertilizers 3 = Agricultural tools and equipment 4 = Training on new farming methods 5 = Sapling 6 = Others, please specify
E24	If E23=4, which farming methods have you learned and adopted in the last three years? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Line cultivation 2 = Proper irrigation method 3 = Composting 4 = Fertilizer Application 5 = Mulching 6 = Use of appropriate seed rate 7 = Effective use of IPM 8 = Orchard layout (practical) 9 = Pruning (practical) 10 = Grafting (practical) 11 = Other, please specify
E25	Are you a member of Farmer Association (LFA, FFA, FFS) in your community? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes
E26	If yes, what types of activities have you carried out to support farming in your community? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Provided technical advice to other farmers 2 = Monitored community farmers activities 3 = Disseminated agricultural messages 4 = Mobilized farmers for agricultural meetings 5 = Sought assistance for identified agricultural problems 6 = Tested agricultural technologies with farmers 7 = Organized practical farming classes with farmers 8 = Organized field farmer days to share experience 9 = linked community farmers with external stakeholders 10 = Linked community farmers with markets 11 = Other, please specify 12 = None

E27	What types of agricultural technologies / methods have been disseminated in your community? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Mulching 2 = Composting 3 = Crops storage and process 4 = Proper use of fertilizer 5 = Proper cultivation method 6 = Seed multiplication 7 = Grafting 8 = Pruning 9 = Soil and water conservation 10 = Orchard layout 11 = IPM 12 = Other, please specify 13 = None
E28	What environmental-friendly and sustainable NRM practices have you learned and adopted to reduce the impact of climate change? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Proper irrigation method 2 = Tracing and contouring sloped lands 3 = Rehabilitation of pastures / rangelands 4 = Controlling overgrazing 5 = Construction of NRM and DRR infrastructures 6 = Avoiding bush cutting 7 = Forests management 8 = Organic fertilizer application (compost) 9 = Mulching 10 = Reducing usage of pesticides / herbicide 11 = Managing wastes (human waste, organic waste) 12 = Other, please specify 13 = None
E29	Is there a NRM committee in your community? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes
E30	If yes, how functional is the NRM committee? *[Single choice]*	1 = Not functional 2 = Somewhat functional 3 = Very functional

F. CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Target group: All community members

On a scale of 1 to 4, how do you rate the adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices in your community?		
No	Practices	Response
F1	Drought-tolerant non-fruit saplings are planted in our community. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High 98 = Not applicable
F2	Climate-adapted fruit saplings are planted in our community. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High 98 = Not applicable
F3	Drought-tolerant seeds are being used by farmers in our community. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High 98 = Not applicable

F4	Farmers have use appropriate seed rate. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F5	Farmers practice drip irrigation method for water conservation. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F6	Farmers practice mulching method for soil and water conservation. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F7	Community members have learned and adopted tracing and contouring methods. *[Single choice*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F8	Agro-based infrastructures in the community have improved agricultural productivity and protectivity. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F9	Farmers have learned and adapted orchard layout in practice. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F10	Farmers have learned and adapted pruning in practice. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F11	Farmers have learned and adapted grafting in practice. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F12	Farmers use organic fertilizers over chemical fertilizers (Composting) *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F13	Farmers have learned and adopted crop rotation practices. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F14	Farmers have learned and adapted reducing of pesticides/herbicide. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F15	Farmers have learned and implemented mechanical pests' controls (e.g., carton trunk, pest traps, etc.) *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F16	Farmers have learned how to make pesticides from local materials. (tobacco, garlic, pepper, etc.) *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High 98 = Not applicable
F17	Pastures / rangelands in our community are managed through replantation.	1 = Not at all 2 = Low

	[Single choice]	3 = Moderate 4 = High
F18	Pastures / rangelands in our community are managed through controlling overgrazing. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F19	Community members reduced cutting bushes. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F20	Forests in our community are effectively managed through replantation. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F21	Forests in our community are effectively managed through reduced forest cutting. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F22	Community members effectively managed wastes. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High
F23	Farmers have learned and adapted linear cultivation technique. *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Low 3 = Moderate 4 = High

G. Livestock

Target group: Livestock holders

No	Question	Response				
G1	Does your household own any type of livestock? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes				
G2	If yes, please record the type and number of livestock you own.					
	Sheep / Goat	Cattle / Yak	Buffalo	Horse, mule, donkey	Camel	
	|_____|	|_____|	|_____|	|_____|	|_____|	
G3	Have you vaccinated / dewormed your livestock in the last three year? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes				
G4	How do you earn from livestock? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = By selling animals 2 = By selling livestock products (Dairy, wool, etc.) 3 = Other, please specify				
G5	How have the prices of animals and their products changed compared to the same time three years ago? *[Single choice]*	1 = Decreased a lot 2 = Decreased a little 3 = Remained same 4 = Increased a little 5 = Increased a lot				
G6	How has your economic benefit from livestock changed in the last three year? *[Single choice]*	1 = Decreased a lot 2 = Decreased a little 3 = Remained same 4 = Increased a little				

		5 = Increased a lot
G7	Have your household received any type of support / aid for livestock-keeping in the last three years from NAC? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes
G8	If yes, what types of livestock support or aid have you received? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Ruminant package 2 = Poultry package 2 = Animal feed 3 = Fodder crop seed 4 = Livestock package (tools and equipment) 5 = Deworming and vaccination 6 = Training and awareness 7 = Basic veterinary services 8 = Other, please specify
G9	If received ruminant packages from NAC, what types of animals has your household received? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Sheep 2 = Goat 3 = Cow 4 = Other, please specify
G10	If received trainings, what types of livestock keeping training have you received? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Livestock nutrition/feeding 2 = Livestock hygiene 3 = Deworming and vaccination 4 = Livestock farming 5 = Livestock marketing 6 = Diary processing 7 = Other, please specify
G11	What are your main challenges in raising livestock? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Lack of water for livestock 2 = Lack of fodder / animal feed 3 = Animal diseases 4 = Lack of veterinary services 5 = Lack of market for animals and livestock products 8 = Conflict on pastures for livestock 9 = Limited access to pastures / rangelands 10 = Higher price of fodder 11 = lack of improved animal breeds 12 = Others

H. Self-Help Group

Target group: SHG Leader

No	Question	Answer
H1	Are you a member of NAC supported SHG? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes
H2	In which year (Gregorian year) was the SHG established?	*[Insert number here]*
H3	How many women have membership in your SHG now?	*[Insert number here}*
H4	How many SHG members are actively participating in SHG activities?	*[Insert number here]*

H5	What are the main activities in your SHG? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Saving and loan 2 = Mushroom cultivation 3 = Beekeeping 4 = Poultry keeping 5 = Sapling production 6 = Farming (Kitchen gardening, micro greenhouses) 5 = Food processing (vegetables, fruits, etc.) 6 = Handicraft (e.g., tailoring, knitting, embroidery) 9 = Running a shop 10 = Baking and confectionery 11 = Livestock 12 = Other, please specify
H6	What kinds of support have your SHG received in the last three years from NAC? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Life skills Training 2 = Business-related technical skills training 2 = Materials (tools and equipment) 3 = Grant 4 = Network support (Linkage to market) 5 = Vegetable seeds 6 = Others, please specify
H7	Is there a demand for your products in the market? *[Single choice]*	1 = No demand 2 = Lower demand 3 = Higher demand
H8	Have SHG members actively used the learned skills in the group? *[Single choice]*	1 = Not at all 2 = Somewhat 3 = A lot
H9	How do you rate your group's current income level compare to the same time three year ago? *[Single choice]*	1 = Significantly decreased 2 = Decreased 3 = Remained the same 4 = Increased 5 = Significantly increased
H10	If decreased, what were the main reasons?	*[Insert text here]*
H11	How much money did your group save during the last year? (In AFN)	*[Insert number here]*
H12	Do SHG members have equal rights in decision making within the group? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes
H13	Does the trainings contributed to the SHG members to be engaged in the households and community level decision makings? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes
H14	How often do you conduct group meetings? *[Multiple choice]*	1 = Never 2 = Once in six months 3 = Once in three months 4 = Once in a month 5 = Once in two weeks 6 = Once a week 7 = daily

H15	Do you have books of records for your group activities? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes
H16	Does your SHG have a business plan? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes
H17	How satisfied are you with the overall status and functionality of your SHG? *[Single choice]*	1 = Very dissatisfied 2 = Dissatisfied 3 = Neutral (Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied) 4 = Satisfied 5 = Very satisfied
H18	If dissatisfied, what are the main reasons? *[Single choice]*	*[Insert text here]*
H19	What additional support does your SHG need?	*[Insert text here]*

I. FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

Target group: All community members

Instructions: Households will be asked about food groups eaten in sufficient quantity by the entire household members. If two or more food from the same food group is eaten in one day, the number of days of consumption will be one, and if one or a few members of the households eat the food, it will not be considered.

How many days during the past 7 days, did members of your household eat from the following food groups?		
No	Food group	Response
I1	**Cereals and Tubers:** *Bread, Rice, pasta, corn, potatoes*	*[Insert number here]*
I2	**Pulses / nuts:** *almonds, Beans, peanuts, lentils, nut, soy, pea and / or other nuts*	*[Insert number here]*
I3	**Milk and other dairy products:** *fresh milk / sour, yogurt, Qurut, cheese, other dairy products*	*[Insert number here]*
I4	**Meat, fish, and eggs:** *goat, lamb, beef, chicken, fish, egg*	*[Insert number here]*
I5	**Vegetables and leaves**: *Okra, eggplant, green beans, spinach, etc.*	*[Insert number here]*
I6	**Fruits** (any type): *banana, apple, apricot, peach, lemon, mango etc.*	*[Insert number here]*
I7	**Oil/fat / butter:** *Vegetable oil, ghee, other fats / oil*	*[Insert number here]*
I8	**Sugar or sweet:** *Sugar, jam, honey, cakes, candy, cookies, and other sweet*	*[Insert number here]*

J. REDUCED COPING STRATEGY INDEX

Target group: All community members

Instructions: Households will be asked how many days in the past 7 days they had to use the following coping strategies due to shortage of food or cash to purchase food. Please repeat the introductory phase for each of the following coping strategies.

In the past 7 days, if there have been any times when you did not have enough food or money to buy food, how often has your household had to use the following coping strategies?		
No	Coping strategies	Response
J1	Rely on less preferred and less expensive food?	[Insert number here]
J2	Borrow food, rely on help from a friend or relative.	[Insert number here]
J3	Limit portion size at mealtimes	[Insert number here]
J4	Restrict consumption by adults for small children to eat.	[Insert number here]
J5	Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	[Insert number here]

K. Dialogue and Conflict Transformation

Target group: All community members

No	Question	Answer
K1	Have you participated in dialogue and conflict transformation training conducted by NAC? *[Single choice]*	0 = No 1 = Yes
K2	How satisfied are you with the quality of the training? *[Single choice]*	1 = Very dissatisfied 2 = Dissatisfied 3 = Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied 4 = Satisfied 5 = Very satisfied
K3	How relevant do you think Dialogue and Conflict Transformation training have been for your family and community? *[Single choice]*	1 = Not relevant 2 = Somewhat relevant 3 = Relevant
K4	How useful have skills gained from the training been in facilitating dialogue and transforming conflicts? *[Single choice]*	1= Not useful at all 2= A little bit useful 3= Useful 4= Very useful 98= Not sure
K5	How have you used the skills gained from the training? *[Single choice]*	1 = Not used yet 2 = Used dialogue gained skill at family 3 = Used dialogue gained skills at community 4 = Other
K6	How much do you think dialogue has been promoted in your family? *[Single choice]*	1 = Not promoted at all 2 = Promoted a little 3 = Promoted 4 = Promoted a lot
K7	How much do you think dialogue has been promoted in your community? *[Single choice]*	1 = Not promoted at all 2 = Promoted a little 3 = Promoted 4 = Promoted a lot
K8 On a scale of 1 to 5, how do you rate the following statements about yourself? *1 = Almost never, 2 = Rarely, 3 = Often, 4 = Very often, 5 = Almost always*		
1	I do not take turns talking in a group conversation.	
2	I do not judge quickly when I hear something for the first time.	
3	I don't like it when others do not agree with my idea.	
4	I listen carefully to others when they are speaking in a conversation.	

5	I am comfortable at changing my position in a dialogue.
6	I like to participate in dialogue with those who are not thinking like me.

Afghanistankomiteen
Norwegian Afghanistan Committee

کمیته ناروی برای افغانستان
د افغانستان لپاره د ناروې کمېټه