

Badakhshan Earthquake Response Evaluation



OBJECTIVES

The aim of the assessment was to evaluate emergency shelter responses' effect on household conditions following the October 2015 Badakhshan earthquake to inform the shelter cluster of Afghanistan of the current shelter context and needs of families affected by the 2015 earthquake in Badakhshan.

The assessment consisted of three specific areas of investigation:

1. To assess cash assistance as an emergency shelter intervention approach
2. To monitor change in shelter conditions
3. To discover any assistance gaps or limits to recovery

METHODOLOGY

Primary data collection resulted in 954 household surveys being completed in Badakhshan, Baghlan and Kabul, 3 districts that received emergency cash assistance.

A random sample was drawn from the beneficiary lists of shelter cluster partners who implemented cash assistance programmes.

This included:

- 48% households originally identified as Category A completely destroyed
- 52% households originally identified as Category B partially damaged

LIMITATIONS

-Data collection carried out up to a year after the initial cash assistance package was distributed thus there is a risk of recall bias concerning cash usage

-The baseline used was a combination of partner datasets, situation reports, rapid assessments and post-distribution monitoring assessments thus making some comparisons difficult

-Difficulty in capturing the female and female headed household perspective due to small sample, questions unanswered, lack of vulnerability assessment in 'baseline'

RESULTS

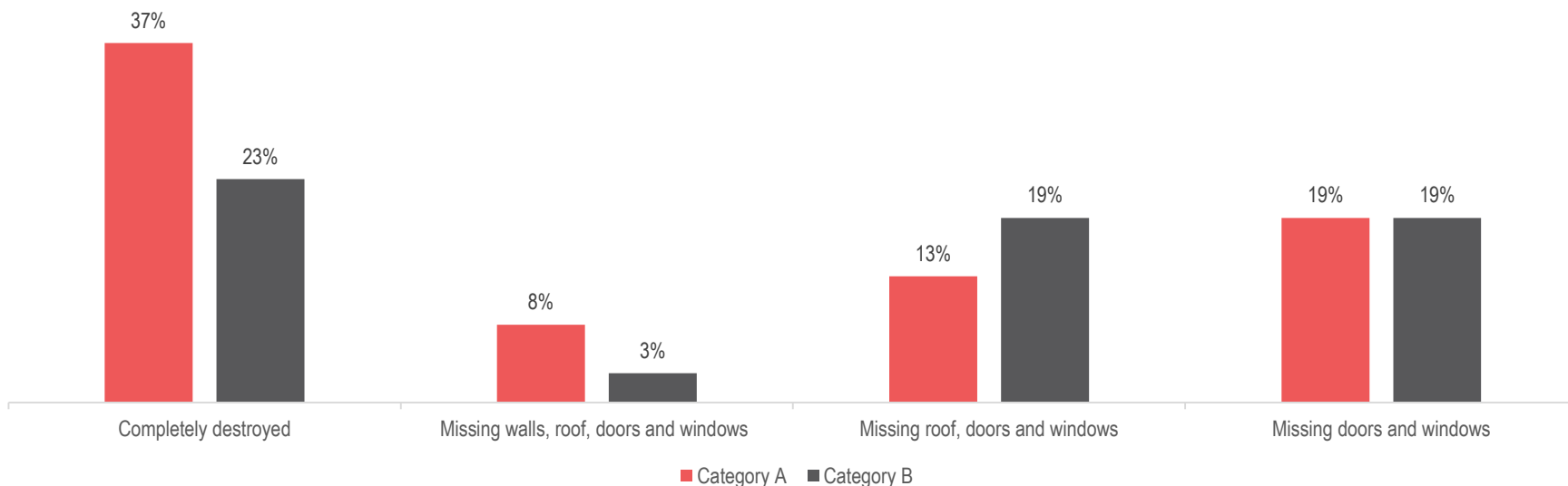
1. The shelter conditions of many households have improved

32% reported that their repairs are complete, 29% missing door and windows, a roof or all three and 39% are completely destroyed or with a foundation only

23% of households reported that they had not yet started their repairs whilst 19% had started but their repairs were now on hold

When asked *why* 92% said it was because **they could not afford shelter materials** and 83% reported **they could not afford shelter labour**

Current state of household living areas in the unfinished earthquake damaged shelter



RESULTS

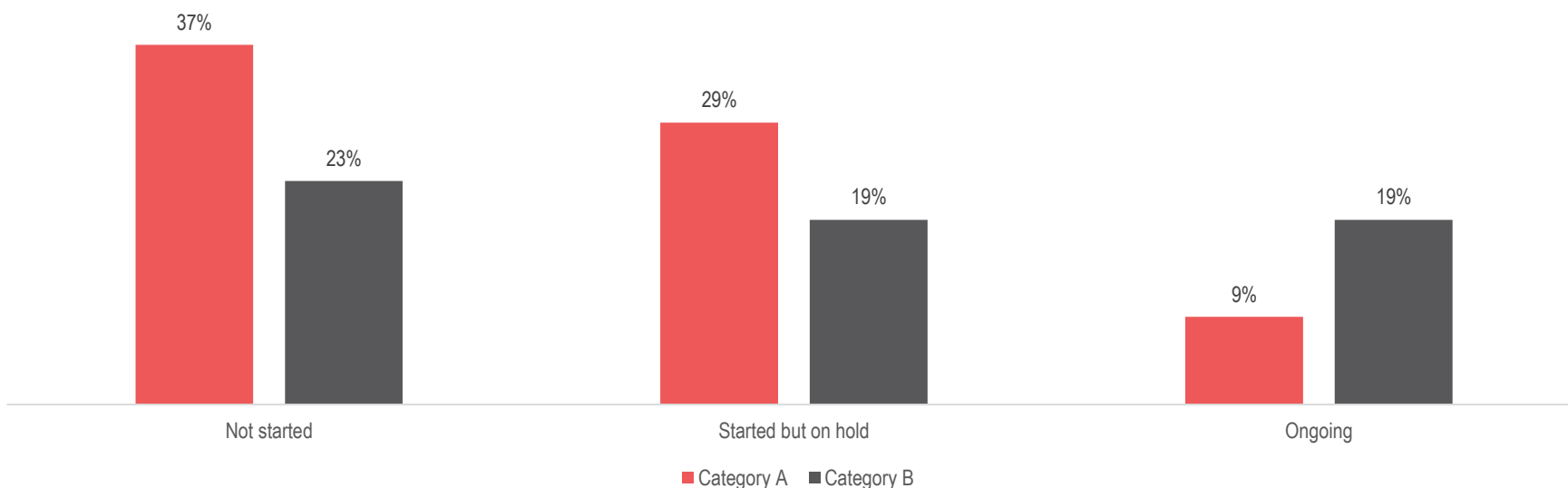
2. Cash assistance was often spent on shelter materials and labour

Both **category A** and **B** household spent between a third and a half of their cash assistance on shelter

Those who spent heavily on shelter initially were more likely to have repairs completed compared to households who divided their money between other needs.

However monthly expenditure on shelter has now vastly subsided thus creating a risk for households with repairs no started, on hold and ongoing.

Current status of household repairs



RESULTS

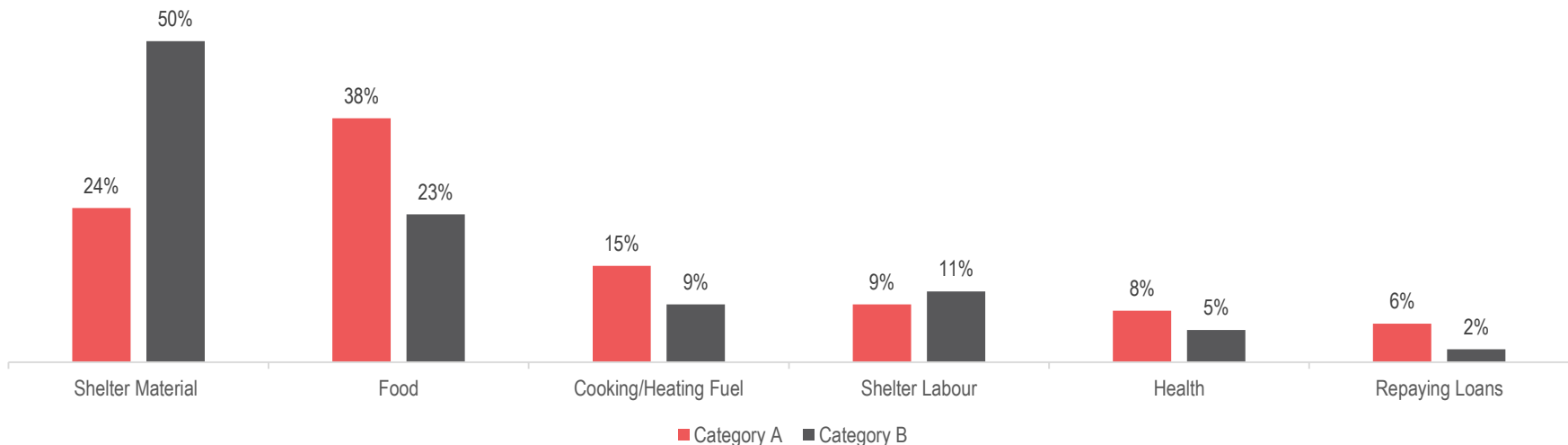
3. It gave those affected by the earthquake the freedom to manage their own redevelopment

This is dependent upon the materials being available at a market that is accessible

Of those whose repairs are on hold or not started, 3% reported that this was because they could not access the market due to insecurity

2% reported that the shelter materials and labour needed were not available in the market

Percentage of assistance money spent on various items/services



RESULTS

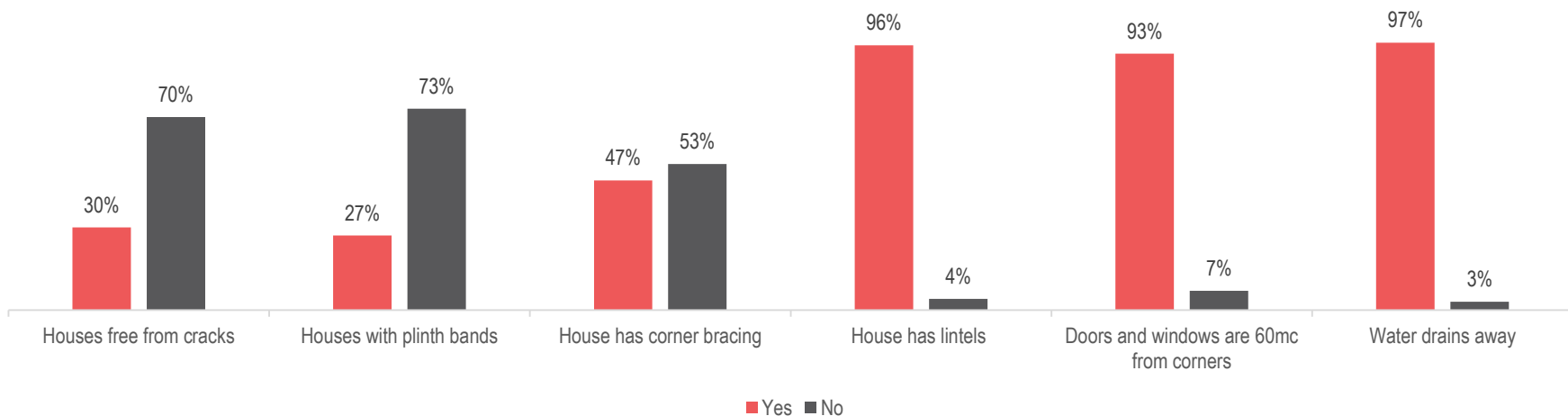
4. Completed household and those with repairs ongoing have implemented some BBB strategies

Category A and B households across all 3 provinces assessed implemented some BBB methods

However 70% of households assessed have cracks and 73% are missing plinth bands

In Baghlan 99% reported having no plinth bands, 88% cracks and 78% no corner bracing

Completed and repairs ongoing household with BBB methods incorporated



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Needs Assessments and Baselines

A detailed understanding of **displacement coping mechanisms** ought be included as part of an initial assessment, not just analysis of households damage.

2. Targeting Criteria

An **understanding of other priorities** will help to inform shelter cash interventions in order to understand **where shelter spending may be sacrificed** in place of other needs.

Income generating habits should be considered as part of cash assistance programmes. They play a part in cash usage and reconstruction efforts and **an improved understanding would help the design of cash interventions** tailored to the target community.

3. Project Design

Detailed transport prices ought be considered as part of a market assessment. Many assessments focus on fluctuations in market prices and access to markets.

BBB and DRR ought be prioritized as part of cash assistance interventions that focus on repairs and reconstruction. Training in safe construction methods and rigorous monitoring assessments further the sustainability of interventions and reduce future damage.

Thank you