



UNHCR carrying out protection monitoring to provide assistance to vulnerable internally displaced Afghan families in Mazar. © UNHCR/Sebastian Rich

CONTRIBUTION IN SUPPORT OF PEOPLE OF CONCERN TO UNHCR IN AFGHANISTAN, DRC, ETHIOPIA, IRAQ, LEBANON AND CHAD ANNEX I

*Support to self-reliance and livelihoods through a whole of
community approach in Afghanistan*

UNHCR Afghanistan

June 2019

Project overview

Project Title:	Support to self-reliance and livelihoods through a whole of community approach in Afghanistan
Total Budget:	EUR 1,000,000 (USD 1,137,656..43)*
Implementation Period:	The project will start after its approval by the Donor for a duration of up to 12 months.
Number of Beneficiaries:	Some 63,250 individuals will benefit from the three proposed activities.
Summary of Project and Expected Outcomes:	The project will contribute to the overall UNHCR Afghanistan programme including self-reliance and livelihoods through a whole of community approach to vocational and technical skills training, as well as to provide logistics and operational support for emergency response to internal displacement in Afghanistan.

* The exchange rate used is 0.879 (UN rate December 2018)

Country background and operational context

For almost four decades, millions of Afghans have sought protection and found temporary solutions in neighbouring countries, notably in the Islamic Republics of Pakistan and Iran, which together currently host more than two million Afghan refugees. This population comprises the largest protracted refugee population in Asia, and the second largest refugee population in the world. A range of factors has influenced the decision of many to return. Since 2002, over 5.2 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan despite a fragile security situation in many parts of the country and a range of socio-economic and political challenges. UNHCR has assisted returning refugees with cash grants and other assistance to meet their immediate humanitarian needs. In 2018, 15,699 registered Afghan refugees returned under UNHCR's assisted voluntary repatriation programme (13,584 from Pakistan, 1,964 from Iran and 151 from other countries). Compared to 2017, the rate of refugee returns decreased by 73%. As of 22 April 2019, 1,299 individuals (198 families) have returned to Afghanistan. This is mainly due to the changing regional political dynamics and improved protection environment for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Similar to past years, the rate of return from Iran remained low.

The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR),¹ the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Global Compact on Refugees together form an overarching policy framework for UNHCR to work with the Government of Afghanistan and our partners to support the voluntary return and sustainable reintegration of Afghan refugees in Afghanistan. UNHCR is providing support to the Government of Afghanistan to fulfil its commitment to implement the CRRF, as a country of origin.

UNHCR continues to sustain its engagement with internally displaced populations, both directly and through the Protection and Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Clusters.

¹ The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, to Support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries, was developed by the Islamic Republics of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran with the support of UNHCR in 2012, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/afghanistan/solutions-strategy.pdf>

As of 21 April, in 2019, a total of 71,208 individuals (10,249 families) have been verified by OCHA as having been displaced by conflict, with 57% being children. There are an estimated 1.8 million IDPs in Government-controlled areas where UNHCR and partners have access. Moreover, drought during 2018 affected some 2.2 million Afghans country-wide, and has displaced more than 250,000 to date.

In 2019, UNHCR continues to operate in a highly complex environment for internal displacement, marred by insecurity, shrinking humanitarian space and consequences of the 2018 drought. UNHCR exercises its responsibilities as Protection Cluster lead, coordinating protection activities in humanitarian settings, and as Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Cluster lead in conflict situations, coordinating and directly intervening in the delivery of in-kind relief items or cash-based humanitarian assistance to new conflict-induced IDPs, based on a vulnerability assessment.

UNHCR will continue to respond to conflict-induced internal displacement with emergency assistance and lead the Protection and ES/NFI Clusters, while also facilitating durable solutions in line with the DiREC policy framework through inter-agency initiatives.

Afghanistan also continues to host some 75,000 Pakistani refugees from North Waziristan Agency in Khost and Paktika provinces of southeastern Afghanistan with UNHCR coordinating support to this population group under its mandate. In 2019, the strategy for Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktika will focus on scaling down UNHCR's interventions and responsibly handing over the management to the GoA (Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation). Key emphasis will be on advocating for enactment of the Refugee Law, promoting self-reliance through community-based protection projects and the provision of targeted assistance (including food, shelter and NFIs) particularly for persons with specific needs (PSN). UNHCR will advocate for the inclusion of the refugee population into the National Priority Programs (NPP) to enable access to essential services including health care and education – and continue monitoring the situation and providing support to the Government.

It is considered that the humanitarian and security situation may remain at the same level or deteriorate, compounded by the forthcoming Presidential elections. The operational context will continue to be influenced by the regional political dynamics, and continued interest among key international stakeholders in promoting a negotiated peace settlement for Afghanistan. Despite the encouraging efforts in peace negotiations and the strong political will in Afghanistan, several uncertainties remain, including bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which continue to be complex. The Presidential elections in Afghanistan during September 2019, may also impact on the operational environment.

Project objective

The project aims to support self-reliance and livelihoods through a whole of community approach in Afghanistan.

Time frame

This Project will start after its approval by the Donor for a duration of up to 12 months.

Activities

UNHCR mainstreams protection through its programmes to reduce protection risks of populations. Age, gender and diversity is mainstreamed in all UNHCR programs, with particular inclusion of women and children. The following activities will be included in this project:

Self-reliance and livelihoods improved

Vocational training and technical skills through community-based protection projects

UNHCR implements community based protection projects to reduce protection risks and vulnerabilities while fostering peaceful co-existence and reintegration of returnees and IDPs through a whole of community approach with local host communities and including persons with specific needs. These projects include skills development for employment, particularly focused on women and youth. The projects focus on community empowerment in line with existing job markets and local demand, and include innovative approaches such as UNHCR's Global MADE51 for artisans' development. The programme works to promote linkages with the Afghan Government's National Priority Programmes, development agencies' initiatives (including the World Bank), and fosters partnerships with local and international private sector actors to implement medium and longer term interventions to enhance sustainability.

Logistics and supply optimised to serve operational needs

Logistics and supply

Logistics delivery is required in order to maintain an emergency response capacity, particularly in regions with limited access and security risks and, where UNHCR is responsible for provision of assistance as the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item (ES/NFI) cluster lead agency. In order to maintain a humanitarian/emergency response capacity, especially in areas where security is volatile, a strong logistics delivery capacity is required. UNHCR works with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to manage and maintain the warehouses, UNHCR's fleet of vehicles and undertake timely delivery of Core Relief Items (CRIs) and shelter materials, where required and requested by UNHCR authorized personnel.

This "enabling" objective would provide impact on UNHCR's persons of concern as follows:

- Sufficient packages of core relief items and dignity kits available at stocks to be distributed to persons of concern in need of assistance in a timely manner;
- Goods kept in good condition, and stock checks and controls monitored regularly;
- Warehousing provided and maintained;
- Food and non-food items transported on time;
- Local and international procurement done in a timely manner;

In the case of internally displaced persons, UNHCR will retain its responsibilities as lead agency in the ES/ NFI Cluster. The extent to which warehousing and logistics will still play a significant role will largely depend on the capacity and opportunity to substitute in-kind support with cash-based interventions.

Protection from effects of armed conflict strengthened

Protection Monitoring including return monitoring

UNHCR systematically and regularly collects, verifies and analyses information over a period of time to assess the protection situation of IDPs, returnees and host communities in order to

plan effective responses. Protection risk analysis helps to inform the overall humanitarian response and uphold the centrality of protection. UNHCR's community-based protection monitoring provides a basis to plan interventions for persons with specific needs and community based initiatives, and provides evidence for advocacy efforts and assists UNHCR and partners in overall programme planning and response.

Return monitoring constitutes an integral part of the protection monitoring system in Afghanistan. It consists of three components: monitoring upon arrival at the encashment centres; monitoring of returnees following their settlement in communities through regular phone surveys; and community based protection monitoring. From April 2018, UNHCR has facilitated the distribution of SIM cards (free of charge) to returnees through the Afghan Wireless Communication Company. UNHCR also provides air-time of US\$2 per month for 3 months, which aims to ensure returnees' access to communication services and to facilitate return monitoring to identify and address protection risks and to gather information on the situation and services available in areas of return.

Beneficiaries

63,250 individuals will benefit from this project, among which 250 will directly benefit from the self-reliance and livelihoods programmes.

Log frame

Objectives	Outcomes	Activities
Self-reliance and livelihoods improved	Vocational training / technical skills provided	UNHCR promotes self-reliance through a community-based management approach and as identified by value chain assessments. In the medium-term, actions include building or improving people's livelihood assets and strategies – i.e. value chain linkages in productive sectors of the economy, entrepreneurship training, targeted vocational and technical skills training for service delivery, and access to microfinance. Importantly, explicit focus will be placed on women empowerment, providing technical skills and trainings to promote sustainable productivity.
Logistics and supply optimised to serve operational needs	Warehousing provided and maintained; timely delivery of Core-relief items (CRIs) undertaken and project	The Operation maintains five consolidated and well-maintained warehouses (Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar, Kandahar and Herat), to store CRIs, which are delivered to distribution points, where

	management services provided	distribution to identified beneficiaries take place.
Protection from effects of armed conflict strengthened	Situation of persons of concern to UNHCR monitored	Protection monitoring interviews at Encashment Centres, telephone calls and by face to face interviews in communities

Request for funds

Considering all of the above, the table below recapitulates the contribution requested by the UNHCR Afghanistan country operation in relation to the response to return and reintegration of returning refugees and support for the response to internal displacement.

	Requirements	Proposed Belgian contribution	
	USD	USD*	EUR
Self-reliance and livelihoods improved	17,372,667	265,807.74	233,645.00
Logistics and supply optimised to serve operational needs	13,506,457	425,292.38	373,832.00
Protection from effects of armed conflict strengthened	2,766,535	372,130.19	327,102.44
Activities sub-total	33,645,659.00	1,063,230.31	934,579.44
Project Support costs - 7%	-	74,426.12	65,420.56
TOTALS	33,645,659.00	1,137,656.43	1,000,000.00
* The exchange rate used is 0.879 (UN rate December 2018)			