

The Afghanistan SSAR Country Portfolio 2015 - 2016





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Refugee return to Afghanistan

- ▶ Following 3 decades of conflict and destruction, almost 6 million Afghans have repatriated
- ▶ Currently, 2.5 m registered refugees and perhaps an equal number of undocumented Afghans remain in main countries of asylum, the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan
- ▶ The Government estimates that about 100,000 refugees will return to Afghanistan in 2015
- ▶ Refugee return to Afghanistan **remains complex**: continued insecurity, increasing internal displacement, weak labour market absorption capacity



Refugee return to Afghanistan





Reintegration

- ▶ 75 per cent of remaining refugees were born and brought up in countries of asylum. For refugees today return to Afghanistan often means building a new life in the country of their forefathers
- ▶ Refugees considering repatriating to Afghanistan state that housing, access to land and to social services (education, health) and livelihood opportunities present concerns for return
- ▶ Facilitating returnees' integration into national development frameworks to ensure their needs are recognized and addressed as part of greater development efforts in the country is key



Reintegration

- ▶ Development-oriented solutions embedded within the Government's broader efforts to secure lasting peace and stability are **key** and have to go hand in hand with humanitarian interventions, facilitating the transition from immediate to mid- and long-term response
- ▶ Building on the Government's vision of the provision of comprehensive support to vulnerable populations through community-led initiatives, both the Government and the international community can help create conditions for return
- ▶ Helping **Afghan youth** see a perspective and a future in Afghanistan may help prevent them from undertaking perilous journeys to reach Europe



The SSAR

- ▶ The SSAR presents the overarching framework for supporting the return and reintegration of Afghan refugees
- ▶ 2 key components of the SSAR in Afghanistan:
 - ▶ Creating conditions conducive for voluntary repatriation and enhancing Afghanistan's absorption capacity through community-based investments in return areas
 - ▶ Building Afghan capital by enhancing livelihoods opportunities
- ▶ SSAR Timeline: 2012 - 2014, 2015-2017



Government initiatives

- ▶ National Unity Government: **return and reintegration is a priority**
- ▶ Establishment of new coordination structures
 - ❖ High Commission for Migration: inter-ministerial body to improve coordination, implementation and increase transparency, chaired by the President
- ▶ Development and implementation of **new strategies** and approaches
 - ❖ 5-year Strategic Plan and related Action Plan
 - ❖ Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration Strategy (21 Aug 2015)
 - ❖ Enhanced Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration Package (EVRRP)
- ▶ The reform agenda further presents an opportunity to address returnees' needs and vulnerabilities
 - ❖ Revision of National Priority Programmes - the Citizen's Charter (MRRD), Rural Development (MRRD) and Urban Development (MUDA) programmes



Enhanced Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration Package (EVRRP)

- ▶ Innovative pilot project to facilitate to provide initial seed capital for refugee returnees to address needs **beyond immediate humanitarian needs**
- ▶ Foster greater socio-economic self-reliance in the return and reintegration process through the provision of a multi-purpose cash grant. The cash grant will be accompanied by supporting measures to access land, shelter and livelihoods to help anchor returnees in the first six months
- ▶ Distributed in three tranches over a period of 6 months, the enhanced reintegration cash grant will help address major reintegration needs, for example by constructing permanent shelter, starting a small business and investing in the future of their communities
- ▶ Quick and flexible access to funds helps empower returnees and will support local economic development



Enhanced Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration Package (EVRRP)

- ▶ **Objective:** complement current voluntary repatriation cash grant of USD 200 per person (average USD 1,200 per family) with the addition of USD 3,000 per family
- ▶ **Target:** 16,600 families (100,000 individuals)
- ▶ **Installments:**
 1. USD 200 per person available upon return at ECs (essential needs)
 2. USD 1,500 per family after 3 months (mid-term needs)
 3. USD 1,500 per family 6 months post-arrival (long-term needs)
- ▶ **Total requirements:** USD 83 million
- ▶ **Modalities:** currently being examined, but will include innovative methods such as mobile cash transfers



Government contributions

- ❖ **LAND**
revision of Decree 104; (re-) allocation and (re-) distribution of land in urban and rural areas; possible land reform
- ❖ **EDUCATION**
rehabilitation of and construction of education facilities; establishment of an education referral mechanism to facilitate re-entry into the education system; **waiving of notary fees** for the certification and translation of certificates
- ❖ **ACCESS to SERVICES**
free access to primary healthcare improve access to WASH facilities in rural and urban areas of return; extension of the electricity grid to include returnee families; improved community infrastructure
- ❖ **ACCESS TO LIVELIHOODS**
creation of 1 million new jobs, support with business start-ups and development, provision of tools for agricultural livelihoods, trainings and savings groups, access to vocational trainings in urban and rural areas



The SSAR Portfolio

- ▶ Operationalizes the 5 key objectives of the SSAR strategy and translate these into measurable actions
- ▶ In Afghanistan, the 5 priorities are aligned with countrywide development frameworks, including key areas identified in the Government's reform agenda and the UN Development Assistance Framework for Afghanistan
- ▶ The 2015-16 updated Afghanistan portfolio highlights the need for concerted engagement, particularly in the areas of
 - ❖ Gender and youth: integration into the work force and local decision-making bodies and structures
 - ❖ Livelihoods: matching assets and skills of returnees to the needs of local markets
 - ❖ Strengthening of community infrastructure in rural and urban areas
- ▶ The portfolio will be revised in March 2016. which allows for the alignment of projects to the National Priority Programmes currently being revised



Overview of projects by Outcome

- ❖ **Outcome I: Voluntary Repatriation**
Provision of return and enhanced reintegration grants
MoRR, UNHCR
- ❖ **Outcome II: Shelter and essential services, with a focus on targeted assistance for women and vulnerable households**
Access to affordable housing in Kabul as well as shelter in urban and rural areas of return
Rehabilitation and construction of community infrastructure, i.e. schools, clinics, roads, water supply and storage facilities
MRRD, MUDA, MoE, MoEW, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNODC, UNOPS, DACAAR, NRC
- ❖ **Outcome III: Improved livelihoods and food security, with a focus on enabling women and youth access to income-generating activities**
Provision of skills training and facilitation of access to employment in urban and rural areas
MoAIL, MRRD, FAO, UNDP, UNHCR, Mercy Corps, NRC, WHH
- ❖ **Outcome IV: Social protection, with a focus on targeted assistance for women and vulnerable households**
Provision of access to legal aid and other social protection measures
UNHCR, NRC
- ❖ **Outcome V: Capacity-building, with a focus on integrating women and youth into decision-making structures**
Building local capacity and support community-driven development initiatives
MRRD, UNHCR, IOM, Aga Khan Foundation



Summary financial requirements for 2015-2016

SSAR Outcome	Total Budget per outcome
Outcome I: Voluntary Repatriation	USD 141,770,859
Outcome II: Access to Shelter and Essential Services	USD 233,648,103
Outcome III: Livelihoods and food security	USD 102,352,289
Outcome IV: Social and Environmental Protection	USD 63,120,091
Outcome V: Capacity Development	USD 12,386,370
Total	USD 553,277,712

Thank you for your attention!

