



Overview

Temporary and medium term population displacement and other related losses are frequently caused by security incidents in today's Afghanistan. In the midst of a deteriorating security situation throughout the country, IOM provides assistance packages to families and communities that have suffered losses as a direct or indirect result of military operations.

PROJECT OUTLINE

With funding from USAID, IOM has assisted conflict-affected communities, through a broad range of infrastructure rehabilitation projects primarily in the southeast of the country since 2003. Over time the focus of the program has shifted from infrastructure to individually tailored "soft" assistance, based on the specific needs of affected families and communities.

IOM initiated a needs assessment, a series of consultations and a victim identification process in the second quarter of 2006, to prepare for implementation of assistance packages a few months later.

In order to identify victims and appropriate interventions, security incidents are closely investigated and assessed, in coordination with various stakeholders, including the Government, communities and local NGOs. The program has a national coverage, but is mainly focused in the south, east and southeast, although it also has a presence in the north and west.

The program targets civilians negatively impacted by the presence of the international military. They include widows suffering the loss of their husbands and unable to support their families, children without any educational opportunities and people injured and no longer able to work.

The project seeks to provide the most needed assistance to civilian beneficiaries who are victims of fighting whether it is joint international/Afghan forces targeting the anti-government elements (AGE) or AGE targeting international forces.

IOM develops sustainable assistance packages adjusted to the specific needs of the individual families, including vocational training, educational assistance, building materials for house reconstruction, start-up assistance for small businesses and the provision of livestock.

The program works with the beneficiaries over a period of six-months to a year as each case may require, providing constant support through advice and progress monitoring. The beneficiaries have so far opened grocery shops, set

up tailoring businesses, bought livestock and attended literacy classes.

Medical assistance both in country and abroad as needed is also provided to civilians who have suffered injuries. IOM also strengthens the capacity of medical facilities in locations where there are a significant number of security incidents.

Additionally, when whole communities are affected, the program assists in rebuilding vital infrastructure including schools and health facilities.

In April 2007 the US pledged some US\$9 million a year for three years to support the program. IOM plans to use the money to continue to expand its outreach to people in need of assistance and to help civilians to restore their lives.

The program contributes to the stabilization efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and is in line with the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS) through humanitarian and disaster response - Sector 7 on Social Protection. Civilian victims of armed conflicts are one of the most vulnerable groups of people in need of immediate assistance.

BY NUMBERS

1,776	Families currently receiving livelihood, education or/and medical assistance
229	Families already received livelihood, education or/and medical assistance
181	Families identified to receive future livelihood, education or/and medical assistance
7	Community projects implemented or ongoing
24	Provinces benefiting from the program

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