Stabilizing Migrant Communities

Political and economic instability is often a major cause for forced migration, and IOM has a strong focus on capacity building and regional approaches to enhance local governance and stability. Community infrastructure, health, and education efforts are key to ensuring successful integration of migrants and preventing population displacement.

Afghan Civilian Assistance Programme

The Afghan Civilian Assistance Programme assists in providing support to Afghan families and communities that have suffered losses as a result of military operations, including battle-displaced populations. By responding to the needs of these people, IOM contributes to the overall stabilization of Afghanistan by addressing potential causes for irregular migration. The programme began in August 2006 and will continue for the next three years. Forms of assistance vary from business and vocational training to the reconstruction of homes and community infrastructure, as well as in the provision of medical assistance.

Schools and Clinics Construction Programme

IOM has contributed to the Government of Afghanistan’s nation-building efforts by addressing the healthcare and education needs of approximately seven million Afghans through the construction and refurbishment of 328 schools and 174 health facilities, including girls’ schools and maternity wards in 23 provinces of the country who none previously existed. Most of the IOM-assisted health facilities are basic clinics equipped with rooms for deliveries, examination, vaccinations and pharmacies.

Women’s Literacy Campaign

With the lowest level of literacy and maternal health in the world, Afghan women need strong support to equally participate in the nation’s development and policy decision making. IOM’s literacy campaign targets socio-economically vulnerable areas of the Western province of Badghis and aims to raise their literacy level and health awareness through radio programming. IOM is currently laying the groundwork to upgrade the Badghis radio station with new equipment to create a directional AM station that can reach the entire province. Small Community Women’s Activity Centers will also be established in each of the district centers of Badghis, to directly support women with literacy training in their own localities.

Quick Impact Programme

The Quick Impact Programme develops and funds quick impact grants in order to create linkages and confidence between communities and district, provincial and central government.

General Information

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, IOM is growing rapidly and currently counts 182 states as members. A further 19 states hold observer status, as do numerous international and non-governmental organizations. IOM’s programme expenditures for 2006 reached USD 730 million, funding over 1,600 active programmes and approximately 6,500 staff serving in over 220 field offices in more than a hundred countries (June 2007).

IOM in AFGHANISTAN

With more than 15 years’ experience in Afghanistan, IOM has an effective operational structure in place throughout the country. It is increasingly focusing on migration technical cooperation and capacity building of Afghan counterparts throughout all programme areas.

The IOM Mission in Afghanistan, with some 150 international and national staff, has its headquarters in Kabul and sub-offices in Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Bamyan, Kandahar, Kunduz, Gardez and Faizabad.

IOM’s overall strategy remains to facilitate return to and within Afghanistan, and to establish communities for sustainable and productive reintegration following a long period of mass population displacement. IOM contributes to the strengthening of Afghan government institutions through a number of capacity-building initiatives.

IOM programmes in Afghanistan are implemented in close coordination with national government counterparts, provincial governors and local community leaders, and are designed to support the goals of the Afghan National Development Strategy.

For example, IOM’s Technical Cooperation on Migration and Return of Qualified Afghans programmes aim to strengthen government capacity particularly in migration-related areas, while the Schools and Clinics Construction and Quick Impact programmes significantly contribute to boosting the country’s social infrastructure and its private sector by hiring Afghan contractors and purchasing materials locally.

IOM programmes are made possible through generous contributions from donors including Australia, Belgium, Denmark, the European Commission, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, UK and USA, as well as international organizations such as UNICEF.

Afghanistan

17 Route des Morillons C.P. 71, CH-1211, Geneva 19

Phone: +41 (0) 22 717 9111 • Fax: +41 22 798 6150 • Email: hq@iom.int

www.iom.int
Migration and Development

Maximizing the positive relationship between migration and development has long been a strategic focus of IOM’s work. In an era of unprecedented levels of human mobility, the need to develop a fuller understanding of the linkages between migration and development is particularly urgent, and development has long been a strategic focus of IOM’s activities. Maximizing the positive relationship between migration and development is becoming an increasingly complex area of governance, intricately linked to issues of economic, social and human rights, security, stability and regional cooperation. The ability to manage migration processes comprehensively and cooperatively is today a fundamental requirement for responsible national governments as well as effective international and regional partnerships.

IOM helps governments equip themselves with the necessary policy, legislative, administrative structures, resources and advice to foster development, especially in those sectors of the economy that are tied to the movement of people. In recent years, IOM has worked with governments to improve and/or establish laws and regulations that are conducive to orderly migration and community development in areas where there is a high level of emigration, enhancing the development impact of migration.

Return of Qualified Afghans

During a quarter century of fighting, a significant number of qualified nationals took refuge in host countries worldwide. IOM assists in the return of qualified Afghans residing abroad and in their placement (into key positions within ministries, government institutions and the private sector that are crucial to development. The candidates are selected from all over the world, including EU member states, Africa, the Middle East, North America and neighboring countries, in close collaboration with the Independent Action Reform Civil Service Commission. To date 828 Afghan experts living abroad have returned to Afghanistan from 29 countries with IOM’s assistance in order to participate in the rebuilding of their nation.

Assisted Voluntary Returns

The Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme facilitates voluntary returns of migrants worldwide. IOM has thus far assisted over 2,000 Afghans with their returns, approximately 2,000 of whom received individually tailored reintegration assistance packages. Assistance offered included training, self-employment, business start-up and employment referral. In addition to individual reintegration assistance for returnees, 7,780 vulnerable members of local communities with large numbers of returning migrants have been helped through specific community development projects across the country.

Emergency and Post-Conflict Migration Management

Counter-Trafficking Efforts

Rapid Response Humanitarian Assistance

Reintegration Assistance for Former Combatants

Emergency and Post-Conflict Migration Management

IOM actively assists populations displaced by natural disaster and conflict both during and after the emergency response phase through the provision of prevention, preparedness, protection and assistance measures, appropriate humanitarian assistance and the search for durable solutions.

Displaced people often need transportation assistance to return voluntarily, if possible, to places of safety and return to areas of origin or resettle in a new environment. Housing and livelihood assistance is also critical to help displaced people meet their productive needs. Further, immediate assistance must be paid to the rebuilding of community infrastructures in order to guarantee the long-term stability of communities.

Return of Forced Migrants

Former soldiers and irregular combatants who wish to return home and start their lives over as civilians are a second category of returnee. In addition to bearing physical and emotional scars of conflict, many lack the skills suitable for the creation of sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families.

Technical Cooperation

The Government of Afghanistan is faced with various administrative challenges and has prioritized its institutions’ building efforts in both national and provincial levels. A central problem, however, remains limited capacity in areas of migration governance and lack of coordination among the various stakeholders. The Technical Cooperation on Migration Programme, currently supported by the Government of Afghanistan in addressing these issues by providing training and technical assistance in travel document issuance and identity checking. IOM is also working closely with the governments of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan in support of regional efforts to search for solutions for Afghans in neighbouring countries.

Support to Provincial Governance

IOM seeks to help the Government improve its provincial governance through assistance to line ministries, provincial councils and rule of law institutions such as the police and judiciary bodies. Grants will be provided to the government or NGO partners of the civilian component of the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT), and the national partners will then implement the sub-projects geared towards strengthening the capacity of provincial governance in Kabul and 14 other provinces. The project will ultimately contribute to enhancing service delivery, political participation and security in selected provinces.

Technical Cooperation on Migration

The Government of Afghanistan is faced with various administrative challenges and has prioritized its institutions’ building efforts in both national and provincial levels. A central problem, however, remains limited capacity in areas of migration governance and lack of coordination among the various stakeholders. The Technical Cooperation on Migration Programme, currently supported by the Government of Afghanistan in addressing these issues by providing training and technical assistance in travel document issuance and identity checking. IOM is also working closely with the governments of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan in support of regional efforts to search for solutions for Afghans in neighbouring countries.

Support to Provincial Governance

IOM seeks to help the Government improve its provincial governance through assistance to line ministries, provincial councils and rule of law institutions such as the police and judiciary bodies. Grants will be provided to the government or NGO partners of the civilian component of the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT), and the national partners will then implement the sub-projects geared towards strengthening the capacity of provincial governance in Kabul and 14 other provinces. The project will ultimately contribute to enhancing service delivery, political participation and security in selected provinces.

Regulating Migration

Government and society have an interest in knowing who is returning from their territories in order to promote access to services, benefits, opportunities and resources by those who are not authorized to enter, while facilitating speedy access for those who are. IOM helps governments develop and implement migration policies, legislation and administrative procedures and advice and training to government migration managers, and to help migrants in need.

Technical Cooperation

Migration management is becoming an increasingly complex area of governance, intricately linked to issues of economic, social and human rights, security, stability and regional cooperation. The ability to manage migration processes comprehensively and cooperatively is today a fundamental requirement for responsible national governments as well as effective international and regional partnerships.

IOM helps governments equip themselves with the necessary policy, legislative, administrative structures, resources and advice to foster development, especially in those sectors of the economy that are tied to the movement of people. In recent years, IOM has worked with governments to improve and/or establish laws and regulations that are conducive to orderly migration and community development in areas where there is a high level of emigration, enhancing the development impact of migration.

Return of Qualified Afghans

During a quarter century of fighting, a significant number of qualified nationals took refuge in host countries worldwide. IOM assists in the return of qualified Afghans residing abroad and in their placement (into key positions within ministries, government institutions and the private sector that are crucial to development. The candidates are selected from all over the world, including EU member states, Africa, the Middle East, North America and neighboring countries, in close collaboration with the Independent Action Reform Civil Service Commission. To date 828 Afghan experts living abroad have returned to Afghanistan from 29 countries with IOM’s assistance in order to participate in the rebuilding of their nation.

Assisted Voluntary Returns

The Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme facilitates voluntary returns of migrants worldwide. IOM has thus far assisted over 2,000 Afghans with their returns, approximately 2,000 of whom received individually tailored reintegration assistance packages. Assistance offered included training, self-employment, business start-up and employment referral. In addition to individual reintegration assistance for returnees, 7,780 vulnerable members of local communities with large numbers of returning migrants have been helped through specific community development projects across the country.

Emergency and Post-Conflict Migration Management

IOM actively assists populations displaced by natural disaster and conflict both during and after the emergency response phase through the provision of prevention, preparedness, protection and assistance measures, appropriate humanitarian assistance and the search for durable solutions.

Displaced people often need transportation assistance to return voluntarily, if possible, to places of safety and return to areas of origin or resettle in a new environment. Housing and livelihood assistance is also critical to help displaced people meet their productive needs. Further, immediate assistance must be paid to the rebuilding of community infrastructures in order to guarantee the long-term stability of communities.

Return of Forced Migrants

Former soldiers and irregular combatants who wish to return home and start their lives over as civilians are a second category of returnee. In addition to bearing physical and emotional scars of conflict, many lack the skills suitable for the creation of sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families.

Rapid Response Humanitarian Assistance

Afghanistan is faced with various natural disasters and a deteriorating overall security situation throughout the country, resulting in the frequent displacement of rural populations. A large volume of undocumented Afghan labour migrants and their families have also been recycled from the crisis in Afghanistan, many of whom remain stranded at the border region without adequate shelter, food, water or means to travel to their final destinations. IOM has been actively involved in providing emergency assistance to this vulnerable population, mainly through the distribution of two food items, emergency shelter and transportation assistance.

Reintegration Assistance for Former Combatants

The Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programme gives former combatants the opportunity to return to civilian life through vocational and on-the-job training and small business start-up assistance. Since 2004, IOM has provided a total of 17,200 former combatants with reintegration assistance in the Western, Northern, South East and Central regions. The project has also assisted communities with a large number of former combatants by providing much needed equipment such as agricultural tools and tractors. IOM has also completed a 16-month Reintegration for Demobilized Child Soldiers and War-Affected Youth project which aims to assist children between the ages of 16 and 18 years of age in reorienting their education and learning new skills. IOM is also providing Employment Assistance Centers in Herat and Mazar, along with a micro-credit programme for former combatants.