

Emergency and Post Conflict Activities

November 2002



Reconstruction of a school in Herat

Afghanistan

Return and Reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP):

IOM continues to assist the return and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Western, Northern and Central Afghanistan. In order to conduct the programme with Government and UNHCR partners, IOM operates a fleet of 100 heavy duty trucks and 25 light vehicles positioned between offices in Kabul, Herat, Mazar, Kunduz and Maimana, and manages nine ECHO-funded Transit Centres along major return routes.

In Central Afghanistan IOM continues to register and return IDPs on a small scale due to the approach of winter weather. In the first half of November, movements of 447 IDPs (63 families) took place from Kabul to Wardak, Parwan and Baghlan provinces after confirmation of mine and security clearance with UNHCR. IOM works directly with the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation on the identification of IDPs in need of return assistance, which includes transportation assistance and basic reintegration kit items and food.

IOM took over from UNHCR the registration of IDPs which was formerly conducted jointly between the two agencies. In addition to manifesting and monitoring return case-loads, the registration process is the basis for issuance of food and non-food item return packages to returning IDP families.

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From Northern Afghanistan 1,242 pax (308 families) were assisted in their return from Balkh to Mazar between 1-15 November. Additionally, IOM assisted the return of 64 Afghan refugees from Tajikistan to Afghanistan. On their home journey the returning refugees had one overnight stay at the IOM transit centre in Kunduz.

In Western Afghanistan return movements were scheduled by IOM from the IDP camps Maslakh and Shaidayee to the provinces of Badghis, Faryab and Ghor. In total, in the first half of November, 549 pax (137 families) were assisted.

IDP Returns 1-15 November: Western, Northern and Central Afghanistan

Period	Depart. Point	No. Families	No. Passengers
1 – 15 Nov	Herat	137	549
1 – 15 Nov	Kabul	63	447
1 – 15 Nov	Mazar	308	1,242
TOTAL		508	2,238

Afghanistan Transition Initiative:

In Kandahar, work will soon begin on the construction of five Dikes for Flood Protection in a district of Kandahar. The ATI grant will provide the materials, with UNDP reconstruction programming covering all the labour costs for the 110 labourers and for the Departments of Planning and of Rural Reconstruction and Development who are assisting in technical oversight and the tendering process. The dikes will stop the destruction of houses and the loss of arable land due to erosion from the Arghasan, Duray, and Tarnak rivers, and is scheduled to benefit 4,800 residents of Doab and Kanizi villages.

In Bamyan, in partnership with the local authorities, ATI supported the construction of a five-metre stone masonry arch bridge over the Djar-e-Qaramak ravine on the Saighan main road. The Djar-e-Qaramak Bridge construction has taken three and a half months to complete and benefits the 3,630 families living in the area.

In Herat, ATI has supported the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Wazir Fatikhan High School including the rehabilitation of 13 damaged classrooms in the existing building and construction of a new ten-classroom building on the same site. Of the 1,400 male pupils and 600 female pupils who benefit from the rehabilitation, 400 will directly benefit from the additional space.

In Mazar-e-Sharif, following six months of work, the rehabilitation of Sultan Razia School is now complete. This high school for girls in Mazar-I Sharif is attended by some 3,000 girls per year, taught by 30 teachers.

Return of Qualified Nationals Programme:

The RQA Programme has so far assisted 300 Afghan Diaspora experts from 19 countries in returns and employment. The RQA returnees work in 18 Ministries of Afghan Transitional Authority (147 returnees), 9 Governmental Institutions (20), 33 NGOs, International and other Organizations (132) and one candidate is self-employed. An additional 54 RQA applicants finalized their employments and RQA offices abroad are preparing returns of these candidates. Since February, RQA Placement Office in Kabul has paid 1,602 benefits packages to its pool of returnees.

Assisted Voluntary Return / Airport Coordination Cell:

Under its Assisted Voluntary Return programme (AVR) for stranded Afghan migrants, IOM Kabul assisted 113 Afghans to return home from the island of Nauru on 17 November. The group arrived on an IOM-chartered plane, escorted by IOM staff from Australia. Upon arrival at Kabul airport they were met by IOM staff and helped through customs and immigration procedures. The majority of the returning group originate from the Kabul and Ghazni areas. IOM arranged onward transportation to the returnees' final destinations and, for some cases, temporary accommodation in Kabul until travel was undertaken. Since March 2002, IOM has assisted 685 AVRs from different countries to return to Afghanistan. Preparations are currently being undertaken for a second IOM charter flight of AVR returnees from Nauru before year's end. Work on the Australian-funded Jangalak Rehabilitation Centre which in future will serve as a reception centre for assisted voluntary returnees, will be finished in the near future to accommodate returning caseloads.

Security:

In general terms the situation is relatively stable with only a few major, but isolated, outbreaks of violence in Shindand / Western Region, Gardez / Southeastern Region and Kabul Central Region. Major outbreaks of violence appear to be reducing and this may be attributed to a general improvement in the security situation. On the

other hand it might be linked with the onset of winter. However, criminal activity appears to be on the increase and the threat of terrorism remains.

In Kabul during a student's demonstration against inadequate facilities at the university, the security opened fire after being stoned. As many as four people were killed and scores injured.

In the North, tensions in the region remain high and the threat of a reversion to violence is ever-present. A potentially volatile situation is brewing between Jumbesh and Jamiat factions who remain armed and competitive for control of territory.

In Herat the security situation remains relatively stable and calm. Governor Ismail Khan's troops are deployed around an adversarial Commander Amanullah's forces on the mountain pass near Shindand, but recent reports have indicated that Khan may be reducing troop concentrations in the region.

In the Southern Region no major outbreaks of violence are reported.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Following an audit of the military in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the OSCE, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defense decided to discharge 10,200 soldiers as of April 1, 2002. The same activity was undertaken in the Republic of Srpska where the RS Ministry of Defense decided to discharge approximately 2,700 soldiers.

The objective of IOM's programme is to facilitate the financial independence of these former soldiers and to assist them in their transition to the civilian community and workforce with as little economic and social disruption as possible.

The support provided includes assistance with employment, one-on-one educational and career counselling, business and agricultural consulting services, including planning and trade kits for those who can engage in sustainable employment.

Through this programme, IOM continues to assist soldiers in attaining sustainable employment. Examples include former soldiers who, through IOM, have been trained as de-miners, firefighters, and driving instructors, thus securing sustainable employment. IOM also continues to provide technical and financial support for small businesses (including the purchase of tools and trade kits) and agricultural enterprises.

Next year, it is expected that up to 6,200 soldiers will be further discharged from the FBiH military and up to 3,100 from the Republic of Srpska military.

This project contributes to the development objectives of Bosnia and Herzegovina by aiming to maintain peace and stability, foster economic recovery, reduce unemployment and generate income for its citizens.

Côte d'Ivoire

Repatriation to Sierra Leone

At the end of November, IOM repatriated 44 Sierra Leonean refugees to Freetown. This was the second such repatriation undertaken by IOM and the UNHCR. Fourteen of the refugees fled the western town of Danane before it fell into rebel hands, 23 were from the neighbouring town of Guiglo and 7 from Abidjan.



One of the families at the Deux Plateaux Transit Centre

Prior to their repatriation, all were housed in the IOM Transit Centre at Deux Plateaux. An IOM Operations Assistant accompanied the refugees as they travelled on board a Ghana Airways flight. Once in Freetown, they were met by UNHCR and government officials.

In the economic capital Abidjan, the number of people rendered homeless is steadily increasing. While no precise figures are available, current estimates suggest that over 40,000 people are affected. Of these, 1,033 are staying in transit centres run by IOM and the UNHCR.

According to IOM Abidjan's David Coomber, most people at the IOM shelter desperately want to return home. "The IOM-organized returns have raised expectations among the refugees, especially the Liberians and Sierra Leoneans, who feel particularly threatened at the moment," he says.

Croatia

On 26 and 27 November, IOM Croatia invited the Transition Office of the Croatian Ministry of Defence (MoD) to a workshop on military downsizing. The salient aim of the exercise was to share IOM's DDR principles, to provide alternative or complementary activities to the MoD's SPECTRA Program (Separated Personnel Care and Transition Program) or elements thereof, to emphasize the IOM-MoD partnership as well as the MoD's ownership of the process, and to produce a more "donor-friendly" project document to assist in joint donor outreach. Experts from Geneva's Emergency and Post Conflict Division and Mass Information Division (Marco Boasso, Mike Pillinger and Laurentiu Ciobanica) and MRF Budapest (Petar Kolackovic) facilitated session discussions by presenting elements of the ICRS and briefing MoD officials on their applicability to the Croatian downsizing context.

Sudan

During the latest round of peace negotiations in Machakos, Kenya, between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and SPLA/M a MOU was signed on 15 October 2002 for a ceasefire throughout Sudan. This MOU was due to expire on 31 December 2002, but was extended to 31 March 2003. The extension was required as the latest round of peace talks ended without any significant agreement on the major areas; namely, the sharing of power and wealth and the judiciary and legislature. The ceasefire is holding although isolated incidents continue to occur between militias unaligned to the GoS or SPLA/M.

Jeff Labovitz from the Emergency and Post Conflict Division has now left Khartoum, after participating in an inter-agency mission in North Sudan, and moved to Harare, Zimbabwe. Chris Petch has taken over the project management of the IDP Survey project. This project forms the beginning of a potential expansion of IOM's programmes in Sudan as they move from refugee work to IDP-related issues. It involves gathering socio-economic and demographic data on IDPs and analysing the results; IOM is working in close cooperation with OCHA, UNDP, CARE, CONCERN and national NGOs. No such data is known of the IDP population, and agencies and government alike eagerly await results of this work.

Planning has begun on other interventions and proposals for immediate funding of IDP-related programmes have been submitted to donors. A meeting at the end of November in Geneva will follow this. Additionally, a strategy of future IOM Sudan Post Conflict interventions is under draft. This will form the basis of future intervention planning.

Tajikistan

Fostering durable peace in Tajikistan has been a prerequisite to enhance orderly migration in Tajikistan. IOM has thus been promoting peace building in Tajikistan in the framework of a programme called "Entrepreneurship for Peace" aiming to assist migrants in returning to their homes and peacefully and effectively reintegrating them in their communities. Particular emphasis is given to ensuring that individuals of social categories identified by communities to be at risk of reverting to illegal armed activities, drug trafficking, and other destabilizing undertakings, are given attention and encouragement at a critical moment of their lives to develop productive and self-reliant enterprises for the benefit of their communities.

In this framework IOM has provided counselling, referral and entrepreneurship training to some 290 ex-combatants and dependants, as well as 156 returnees from Turkmenistan. It is presently profiling, counselling and training some 256 Tajik returnees recently repatriated by IOM from Pakistan.

Successful trainees are offered the possibility to apply for micro-loans on the basis of business plans including activities such as bee-keeping, cattle breeding, retail selling, carpentry workshops, tailoring, vehicle repair services and others. Some 227 ex-combatants and 108 returnees are now running successful small businesses in their communities. Careful monitoring has ensured a reimbursement rate of loans of 95%.

In addition to US funding for the reintegration of returnees from Pakistan, IOM received funds from Norway in October and a pledge from Canada to target former detainees, unemployed youth and IDPs within the programme framework of "Entrepreneurship for Peace".

Zimbabwe

IOM has signed a grant agreement with UNDP for USD 100,000 to provide assistance in the form of non-food items to mobile populations and vulnerable populations in Zimbabwe. The programme will begin in January and

provides needed assistance including: blankets, tools, clothing and other non-food item needs. The project will be implemented in coordination with NGOs working in Zimbabwe, and in close collaboration with the Relief and Recovery Unit, which is the coordination body of the UN system. Zimbabwe has applied for membership in IOM which will be one of the agenda items at the upcoming Council meetings.

EPC in coordination with the Regional Office in Pretoria is working on larger scale projects based on the pilot phase of the UNDP project.

Proposals have been submitted to OFDA and ECHO for consideration. More than 6.8 million people in Zimbabwe are currently dependant on humanitarian food relief.

DDR / PCOM Experts' Workshop

Funded through the DFID-EPC project on strengthening IOM's institutional emergency preparedness and response capacity, the Emergency and Post Conflict Division, assisted by the Staff Development and Training Unit, organized a 5-day experts' workshop on DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration) / PCOM (Post-Conflict Operations Manual). This was held in Geneva from 4 to 8 November 2002. Participants consisted of 15 key staff from the field and from headquarters with hands-on experience on post-conflict programme interventions. The objectives of the workshop were 1) to take stock of IOM DDR experiences, gather lessons learned, and envision the future of IOM DDR programmes and 2) to review and validate the draft PCOM chapter texts. This represented two parts of the workshop: DDR and PCOM.

The workshop participants initially described the IOM DDR experience as falling under the following typical types:

- a) return and reintegration of former combatants and their dependents;
- b) enhancing the absorption capacity of host / settlement communities; and
- c) facilitating the flow of timely, unbiased and reliable information.

It was further suggested to add the following DDR types of intervention, based on past experience: collection of small arms (disarmament) with micro-project support as incentive, social communication campaign towards reconciliation, post-traumatic response (psychosocial), health component of demobilization (including HIV/AIDS counselling), and technical advice to governments or agencies on DDR.

The participants elaborated on DDR lessons learned, basically divided into four categories: (1) policy/strategy, (2) procedures, (3) marketing, and (4) institutional capacity building.

The finalization of these lessons learned is still under preparation. They further discussed the future of IOM DDR, suggesting some new areas of programme interventions and the structure necessary to deliver them.

The second part of the workshop aimed to review and validate the draft chapter texts of the Post Conflict and Operational Manual. Comments were divided into two categories, i.e. form and substance. In form, the main

observation was that the PCOM was more of a reference manual than an operations manual. As such, it will be renamed accordingly. The need for an operations manual, however, was still found necessary. A different process, led by EPC, had to begin. In the substance, EPC took notes of the comments and will proceed from there. A staff dedicated to the development of the procedural / operations manual will be recruited. The most immediate action point was to go ahead with the current PCOM draft and convert it into something of a "Post-Conflict Reference Manual" or PCRM. Ideally, this should be printed and distributed before the end of the year.



The workshop participants

