



**Afghanistan and Pakistan
Humanitarian Assistance Program
Field Monitoring Report**

October 2014

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JAPAN PLATFORM

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Preface

Monitoring project for Japan Platform Afghanistan and Pakistan Humanitarian Assistance Program

Japan Platform has been unfolding a five-year humanitarian assistance programme (2010-2015) to mitigate and improve “the complex humanitarian crises” caused by longstanding conflicts and poverty in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The purpose of the monitoring assignment was to examine if the activities of 34 projects implemented during the last three years contributed to achieve the planned programme goals, if their outcomes have been sustained in the project areas and if the activities of the ongoing 11 projects were being implemented as planned. It was also required to identify constraints and lesson learned and to make recommendations for the JPF secretariat and its partners to improve the project design and implementation for the rest of the programme cycle.

Another purpose of the assignment was to collect and analyse the data and information which would help JPF to decide if it would be necessary and/or possible to launch another programme for Afghanistan beyond 2015, when the current programme is planned to complete.

As a result of the selection process, Japan Platform tasked the Silkroad Caravan, an Afghan-based consulting company, to undertake the abovementioned assignments.

In closing, we would like to extend our appreciation to all the people in the field and the headquarters who kindly contributed to realize and complete the monitoring project. Sincere appreciation also goes to the monitoring team of the Silkroad Caravan for their excellent work.

Japan Platform

Implementing partners for the Afghanistan and Pakistan Humanitarian Assistance Program



ABBREVIATIONS

AGE	anti government element
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CBMRE	community-based mine risk education
CBS	community-based school
CHAP	Common Humanitarian Action Plan
CHEP	community health education program
CHF	Common Humanitarian Fund
CHW	community health worker
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DFID	Department for International Development
DIK	Dera Ismail Khan
ECD	early child development
ECHO	European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	internally displaced person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JPF	Japan Platform
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
MoE	Ministry of Education
MRE	mine risk education
NGO	non-government organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SCJ	Save the Children Japan
UN	United Nations
UK	United Kingdom
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
VAW	victim assistance workshop
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WVJ	World Vision Japan

NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars.

Team leader

Ali Azimi, Executive Project Manager

Team members

Ayub Alavi, Field Project Manager

Said Mahdi, Project Assistant

Fatima Hosaini Zada, Project Assistant

COMPONENT 1

MONITORING OF THE CURRENT AND PAST PROJECTS' ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

COMPONENT 1: MONITORING OF THE CURRENT AND PAST PROJECTS' ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

I. INTRODUCTION

1 Japan Platform (JPF), an international emergency humanitarian relief organization established under equal partnership with nongovernment organizations (NGOs), business communities, and the Government of Japan, has been unfolding a five-year humanitarian assistance programme (2010–2015) to mitigate and improve “the complex humanitarian crises” caused by longstanding conflicts and poverty in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

2 In accordance with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), JPF selected the following three areas of assistance (i) rebuilding and improving social infrastructure (building schools, water supply facilities, and providing agricultural support); (ii) strengthening education and health sectors (providing teacher training along with health and hygiene education); and (iii) peace-building (providing mine risk education and assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs). The target groups of the programme are communities in Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Herat, Bamiyan, Nangarhar, and Parwan as well as Afghan refugees and Pakistani residents living in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in Pakistan on the Afghanistan border and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

3 The purpose of the assignment is to examine (i) if the activities of 34 projects implemented during the last three years contributed to the achievement of the planned programme goals; (ii) if their outcomes have been sustained in the project areas; and (iii) if the activities of the ongoing 11 projects are being implemented as planned. This report also aims to identify constraints and lesson learned and to make recommendations for the JPF secretariat and its partners to improve the project design and implementation for the rest of the programme cycle.

4 Implementation of this monitoring is planned for three phases:
(i) Phase 1 - Kabul, Parwan, and Kapisa;
(ii) Phase 2 - Herat, Bamiyan, and Nangarhar; and
(iii) Phase 3 - Pakistan (FATA and Dera Ismail Khan).

II. PHASE 1

A. Background

5 This section of the report covers Phase 1 of the monitoring program which includes project accomplishments and progress, including checking the infrastructure of projects and assets of the following projects (i) school construction, (ii) literacy classes, (iii) food distribution, (iv) mine risk education (MRE), (v) community-based schools (CBS), and (vi) hygiene promotion projects in Kabul, Parwan, and Kapisa provinces.

6 The Silkroad monitoring team checked the physical condition of school buildings, latrines, water supply facilities, and the quality and effectiveness of training. Equipment and furniture installed in the projects were also checked. Impact of behavior-changing interventions such as MRE and hygiene promotion on both direct and indirect beneficiaries in the communities was assessed.

7 The effectiveness of teacher's training; literacy and vocational training for women; and agricultural support by visiting schools, women's center, and farm, was examined. The physical condition of items provided such as vehicles, generators, CCTV cameras, etc., provided by JPF was checked. Potential social factors in the project areas that might affect the achievement of the project were likewise examined.

8 Projects in Surkhe Parsa district of Parwan are not included in this report as Silkroad was advised by JEN, the implementing NGO, not to visit the project site due to security concerns. However, Silkroad independently organized a discreet visit to Surkhe Parsa on 27 July 2014 and our findings will be reported in Phase 2 report. We conducted two separate visits and meetings with JEN staff in their Kabul and Charikar offices and JPF assets were checked.

9 The project in Parwan Province "School Rehabilitation for Disabilities," implemented by AAR is not included in the Phase 1 report due to conflict in schedules. It will be covered in Phase 2 report.

B. Approach

1. Structure of monitoring team

10 The monitoring team of Silkroad Caravan includes Dr. Ali Azimi as the executive project manager. Mr. Ayub Alavi, as the field project manager, planned and supervised the field and stakeholder meetings.

11 Ms. Fatima Hosaini Zada, as an assistant to the monitoring team, facilitated interaction with women beneficiaries and stakeholders. Lastly, Mr. Said Mahdi assisted in the monitoring and evaluation meetings with stakeholders in Parwan, Kapisa, and Kabul.

2. Implementation

12 The monitoring team conducted field visits to the project sites and met with relevant stakeholders including government counterparts, local community representatives, project beneficiaries, IP NGO staff, etc. Silkroad prepared draft specific activity questionnaires that were reviewed and commented on by the JPF team in Tokyo prior to the visits.

13 Early coordination with IP NGOs in Kabul was the first step to the monitoring exercise. Individual meetings were organized with all of IP NGOs including AAR, ADRA, NFUAJ, CARE, SCJ, and SVA in Kabul. Prevailing conditions including security concerns and timing of project site visits were discussed and schedules were set for each project with relevant IP NGO.

14 During project site visits the physical assets, quality of outputs, project management, and project impacts were monitored. Our monitoring team took pictures with a GPS locator-equipped digital camera and included video recording of project sites and beneficiaries. Interviews with individuals and group discussions were held with local stakeholders including local government officials and project beneficiaries to understand the project impacts, IP NGO/stakeholder relationship and role/involvement of local stakeholders in project planning, implementation and monitoring of the project. Separate meetings with the relevant IP NGO staff were undertaken to understand project management implementation issues.

3. Criteria for selection of candidates for interviews

15 Candidates for interviews were selected from local beneficiaries and community representatives who were aware of the project, available, and willing to participate in interview and group discussions with the monitoring team.

16 The local government officials we met were from the relevant sector departments and familiar with the project details. The IP NGO staff we interviewed were directly or indirectly involved in the implementation of the projects.

C. Findings

1. School construction and facilities development projects

17 Local beneficiaries and government counterparts are generally satisfied with the quality and timely completion of construction works. Quality of construction works for school buildings is satisfactory and stands out in comparison with that of other school construction projects in Afghanistan.

18 **Shahrak-e-Mahdia Secondary School.** Schools constructed by ADRA in Kabul are of high quality. Installations of water facilities in schools are not among the successful components of JPF projects. For example, the water supply system in the Shahrak-e-Mahdia school installed by ADRA is not functioning due to lack of electric power produced from a generator to draw the water from the well.



Figures 1 and 2: The water system in Shahrak-e-Mahdia secondary school (district 13, Kabul City) is not functioning due to lack of electricity.

19 This situation is due to lack of financial resources of the school authorities to purchase fuel for the generator. The situation has persisted since the project was handed over to the school authorities. Occasionally they have been able to run the generator with funds for the fuel provided by the Department of Education.

20 The school authorities are pleased with quality and availability of water in the well. The water supply system and associated equipment provided by ADRA are in good condition. However, an annual budget for the generator's fuel was not provided to the school by Ministry of Education (MoE) and that is the reason the electric powered water supply system is not operating.

21 **Jalaluddin Mohammad Balkhi School.** The quality of construction of Jalaludin Mohammad Balkhi school, Paykobe Naswar (Khair Khana), by SVA in Kabul was criticized by beneficiaries and school authorities. Cracks on the walls and broken door frames are visible in many parts of the building including broken door handles, locks, and classroom desks. Painting of the inside of the school building is not complete. The school authority mentioned that SVA staff promised that they would complete the work as soon as the walls were dried and they repeated the same to us.



Figure 3: Unpainted walls inside the building.



Figures 4 and 5: School latrine (built under JPF fund) - dirty and very poorly maintained. Broken walls and cracks around the doors and windows, broken door locks, broken class desks and not painted walls inside the building.

22 At this stage the painting work needs to be complemented with fixing the cracks in the walls. The quality of latrines (septic reservoir) is questionable. The septic reservoir is completely empty due to improper sanitary engineering design.

23 Poor maintenance and careless use by beneficiaries also seem to be a problem in this school (see relevant pictures in Appendix 1). The project has been turned over to school authorities three months ago.

- 24 Our recommendations in this regard to JPF are:
- (i) Conduct a technical assessment of both construction and material used for construction of this building. The result of this assessment should include recommendations for fixing the damages and reinforcement of the building.
 - (ii) Since the “Dehkhodaidad Girls School” is under construction by the same IP NGO, the same assessment is recommended for this project as well.

25 Despite the involvement of MoE and provincial education departments in design of the school buildings (IP NGOs follow an MoE standard building design), the following issues are recognized:

- (i) There is a lack of toilets inside the building (for teachers).
- (ii) Inadequate latrine systems (inadequate design and insufficient number of latrine rooms), particularly in urban areas such as Kabul City. School latrines in Kabul City are generally dirty and/or poorly maintained, specifically in the Jalaluddin Mohammad Balkhi school by SVA.
- (iii) The number of classrooms in each school is not adequate to accommodate the current number of students in urban areas such as in Kabul City. Extra classes are held inside tents after completion of the new school building.

2. Community-based school program by CARE

26 The satisfactory quality of education achieved under CBS and extra-curricular activities such as making handicrafts, toys and participating in decorating the classroom by making/drawing simple posters has been confirmed by the local community, CBS teachers, community representatives, and the district education department.



Figures 6 and 7: The community-based school in Kapisa has been crucial in providing an opportunity for girls to attend school and benefit from education services.

27 The provincial education department staff are pleased with the standard that students achieved under CBS as compared with students in non-CBS schools. They specifically mentioned that CBS students are more literate with better skills in reading and writing in comparison with students of the same grade in other schools.

28 There are strong recommendations by the local education department, CARE staff and community representatives requesting JPF to provide funding for building small buildings for CBSs. The education department committed to taking full responsibility of CBS schools.

3. Community-based mine risk education, mine risk education by female team and the victim assistance workshops by AAR

29 Most of local beneficiaries do not see this assistance as their priority nor as an actual need, however, participation in the courses was more out of curiosity. The students and local women remembered general issues such as danger of land mines and unexploded ammunition in their farmlands and village environment and that they should be careful about those items.

30 The CBMRE teaching materials and meeting with local stakeholders (community representatives and the volunteer course instructors). No pictures were allowed to be taken of women participants in the MRE course. The children who were present in this class were accompanying their mothers in the MRE class.



Figure 8: Community-based mine risk education class in Qhale lala school in Shakar Dara, Parwan.

31 Teachers and students appeared to be more interested in the audiovisual sessions. This was emphasized by the local course facilitators and evident by the crowded classroom during a video show on victim assistance workshop (VAW). What is termed as the VAW is a modified version of MRE with content relevant as to proper behavior to war victims and disabled people.

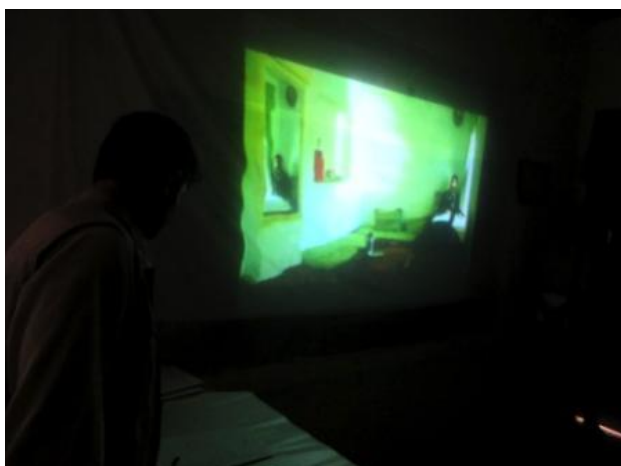


Figure 9: Student participants to the victim assistance workshop held in Gol Dara, Parwan watching an educational video.

32 The overall findings about the VAW are same as for MRE and community-based mine risk education (CBMRE). There were no actual mine-related incidents in the recent years that local communities could recall. According to the participants there have been no incidents related to mines or unexploded ordinances in their villages in recent times. The area is close to the front-line of the war between the Mujahidin and Taliban during late 90s. The beneficiaries confirm that during the CBMREs and MREs they learnt about danger of mines and became familiar with dangerous explosives and un-exploded ammunitions and how to deal with victims of explosives in these courses.

33 The local residents stated that these types of awareness and training workshops could be more useful in recent conflict zones or where there are lots of unexploded ordnances (UXO).

4. Literacy courses by NFUAJ

34 The literacy courses in Barikab refugee camp were generally welcomed and recognized as useful by the camp residents. Beneficiaries were mostly women and young girls. The nine-month literacy course is identified as important for young participants as it enables them to pass the entrance exam to schools.



Figures 10 and 11: Literacy classes in Barikab (classrooms provided by community as their contribution to the project - NFUAJ).

35 The literacy class implementation in the refugee camp was facilitated by the food distribution project by drawing attention of local residents to the literacy class by the same NGO.

36 Lack of proper access to drinking water was a major challenge for the residents of the refugee camp and this issue was strongly emphasized by residents to JPF to be programmed as a future project.

37 Establishment of “Local Basic Education Centers” including construction of a building and other associated facility for each center was recommended by NFUAJ staff to ensure sustainability of training programs.

5. Food distribution projects by NFUAJ

38 As emphasized by local beneficiaries and IP NGO staff, food insecurity has increased among Afghan families and in refugee community camps where food distribution projects were

funded by NFUAJ last winter. These communities are food insecure and vulnerable as they have no access to farmland and many of them have no means of livelihood in the present economic insecurity and political situation in Afghanistan.

39 Our group discussions and interviews with beneficiaries revealed that the food distribution projects are appreciated and welcomed by beneficiaries. However, the effectiveness and urgency of the project is questionable as the project brought no change to their lives and the level of demand for food remains the same as before the implementation of project. Food insecurity continues.

- 40 Strongly recommended to improve the effectiveness of the food distribution projects are:
- (i) Focus on actual needy households (people) such as widows, female headed households, and seriously disabled people (vulnerable families) instead of the general public and population of the camp or town;
 - (ii) Support these vulnerable households for longer period of time (instead of a one-time food package distribution); and
 - (iii) Enter into an agreement with the Afghan government for them to take over the responsibility to continue supporting the vulnerable households (covered under project) after a specific period of time.

41 These recommendations are based on our observations at the ground level, and interviews/group discussions with project beneficiaries and local stakeholders about necessity and effectiveness of such projects for the future.

III. PHASE 2

A. Background

42 This section of the report covers Phase 2 of the monitoring program which includes project accomplishments and progress including checking the infrastructure of projects and assets of the following projects in Herat, Bamyan, Nangarhar, and Parwan: school construction, literacy classes, home gardening, irrigation support, early child development programs, building/stocking school libraries, hygiene promotion projects, and construction of the building and equipment of the Institute of Health Science.

43 The Silkroad monitoring team checked the physical condition of school buildings, latrines, water supply facilities, the building and facilities at the Institute of Health Science, irrigation project, women home gardening, occasional training center, early child development and training programs and school libraries. The condition of installed equipment and furniture was also assessed. The physical condition of items provided by JPF such as vehicles, generators, CCTV cameras, etc., funded JPF were noted and reported in a checklist. Additionally, the social impact of project interventions in hygiene promotion, early child development, on both direct and indirect beneficiaries were noted by our team during field research.

44 The Phase 1 school project in Surkhe Parsa district of Parwan is included in this report. Silkroad staff was advised by the JEN IP NGO not to visit the project site due to security concerns. However, Silkroad independently organized a discreet visit to Surkhe Parsa on 27 July 2014 by avoiding the insecure direct access road from Kabul and instead visited the project site from a circuitous route from Bamyan and our findings are reported in this report.

B. Approach

1. Structure of monitoring team

45 The monitoring team of Silkroad Caravan includes Dr. Ali Azimi as the executive project manager. Mr. Ayub Alavi, as the field project manager, planned and supervised the field and stakeholder meetings.

46 Ms. Fatima Hosaini Zada, as an assistant to the monitoring team, facilitated interaction with women beneficiaries and stakeholders. Lastly, Mr. Said Mahdi assisted in the monitoring and evaluation meetings with stakeholders in Herat, Bamyan, and Nangarhar.

2. Implementation

47 The monitoring team conducted field visits to the project sites and met with relevant stakeholders including government counterparts, local community representatives, project beneficiaries, IP NGO staff, etc. Silkroad prepared draft specific activity questionnaires that were reviewed and approved by the JPF team in Tokyo prior to the visits.

48 Project site visits were organized in coordination with ground level staff of IP NGOs including SCJ, SVA, ADRA, JEN, NICCO/RAZI and World Vision Japan (WVJ) in their provincial and district offices as well as meeting in their home offices in Kabul.

49 During project site visits the physical assets, quality of outputs including project management and project impacts were monitored. Monitoring team took pictures with a GPS locator-equipped digital camera including video recording of project sites and beneficiaries.

50 Interview with individuals and group discussions were held with local stakeholders including local government officials and project beneficiaries to understand the project impacts, IP NGO/stakeholder relationship and role/involvement of local stakeholders in project planning, implementation and monitoring of the project. Separate meetings with the relevant IP NGO staff were undertaken to understand project management implementation issues.

3. Criteria for selection of candidates for interviews

51 The candidates for interviews were selected from local beneficiaries and community representatives who were available and willing to participate in interview and group discussions with the monitoring team. The criteria the team considered in choosing the right candidates were their awareness of the project and involvement in project planning, consultations, or implementation.

52 The local government officials we met were from the relevant sector departments who were familiar with the project details. The IP NGO staff we interviewed were directly or indirectly involved in the implementation of the projects.

C. Findings

1. School construction and facilities development projects

53 **JEN Project in Surkhe Parsa.** There are serious security concerns in the access road to project sites in Surkhe Parsa and Sheikh Ali through Ghorband valley. The road is controlled by temporary check points setup by anti-government insurgents searching for NGO and government staff.

54 JEN staff informed us during a coordination meeting that they would be able to arrange our site visit to the project sites with Taliban/anti-government warlords, however, the risk of such arrangements was not acceptable to us as it would have put the life of our staff at grave risk.

55 JEN staff informed us that even if we were to visit the project site, they could not arrange meetings with local stakeholders or community members as it would increase the risk to both JEN staff and local communities, and that they would be targeted by anti-government groups of the area. Based on this information, we initially cancelled our project site visit to both Surkhe Parsa and Sheikh Ali and informed JPF of our decision.

56 Later, given the interest by JPF, we managed to access Surkhe Parsa by undertaking a circuitous trip from Bamyan without involvement of JEN office in Charikar. We contacted JEN site office at Surkhe Parsa and they arranged the project site visit. Given the security situation we were able to cover only Gunbad village school in Surkhe Parsa, and security concerns deterred us from visiting the “Zainabe Shahid School” repair project in the neighboring valley.

57 The Gunbad village school project at Surkhe Parsa implemented by JEN appears to appropriately fulfill the communities educational development needs. The project is highly appreciated by beneficiaries.



Figure 12: The new Gunbad village school building under construction (JPF funding).

58 However, the lack of furniture (desks and chairs) for classrooms is a critical missing component. There is also a health issue associated with the supply of drinking water to the school. The current plan is to source water from an open irrigation canal by pumping water from the canal to a concrete reserve pool.



Figures 13 and 14: Source of water for the school as planned by JEN is going to be from an open irrigation canal which raises question about hygiene of this water for drinking and impacting the health of students.

59 The open irrigation canal is most likely contaminated as community wastewater is discharged into it, creating a health risk for the school students and teachers. In addition, lack of a boundary wall around this school misses a sensitive social and cultural requirement, whereby girls are not secluded from the male population.

60 The school authorities did remember the hygiene promotion workshop and confirmed it as useful but no specific lessons or content of the awareness workshop was recalled. We were not able to visit the students as schools were on summer holiday.

61 **ADRA Project in Surkhdar, Bamyan.** The quality of the building and capacity to house the students is adequate but the drinking water supply system provided is not functional due to lack of electricity. The system installed is dependent upon provision of electricity by a generator that is in a state of disrepair.



Figures 15 and 16: No access to water due to lack of electricity and problem in generator system.

62 Recently, a group of student volunteers formed a committee dedicated to cleaning and maintaining the school environment. This program has been facilitated by Bamyan municipality and UNDP in Bamyan schools (including the Surkhdar girls high school).

63 The contents of the “hygiene training” program for the same target community in the communities is not recalled and apparently did not have the impact envisaged. The effectiveness of this component of the project is questionable and not sustainable.

64 **ADRA Project in Waras, Bamyan.** The operational viability of the water supply system for the Benigow school in Waras (transmitting spring water to the school) was questioned by the school authorities and community representatives. Their experience shows that this system will freeze and pipes will break due to the frigid cold climate in winter of Bamyan.



Figure 17 and 18: School building.

65 Furniture for school administration and teacher’s room in Tarapas Girls High School (Panjab district) was not provided though it was promised at the initial announcement of the project to the local communities. Provision of the furniture by JPF is stated in the project sign board.

66 **SCJ Project in Saighan, Bamyan.** The school building and associated facilities and furniture are in good condition. The school was selected to fulfill an urgent need. The water quality from the school well is not potable and is an issue of concern, and many complained to us. We were informed that digging a deeper well to reach better quality water could rectify the situation.



Figure 19: School water from a hand pump equipped well (low quality water for drinking).

67 Apparently, there was confusion about identifying school project sites during our coordination meeting with SCJ office in Bamyan and due to this confusion our team visited another school project at a neighboring valley instead of the flooded school.

68 From the beginning, SCJ was referring to the “Abdare Begal” school project, while “Abdara” and “Begal” are two separate neighboring valleys in Saighan district and SCJ has two school projects, one in each valley both funded by JPF. The flooded school is located in “Abdara” valley and the school, which we visited, is in Saighan and located in “Begal”. We realized this while checking photos and reports of the field visit.

69 Later, we discussed the issue with SCJ staff about the flooding issues of the “Abdara” school, and were informed that it was due to an increase in the water level of a nearby lake, which formed following a major flood some years ago.

70 According to SCJ staff the flood did not damage the JPF funded school building but access to school was not possible during floods and there was minor damage to the school boundary wall and old school building. SCJ assisted the local community to open a canal for overflow of the flooded lake and the level of water has since dropped.



Figure 20: There is risk of flooding and damage to Abdara school building.

71 Apparently, these schools were inappropriately located in low-lying areas. However, the local community maintained that despite the flood risk, this was the best location compared to other options available. Other locations were available but too distant from the villages.

72 **SCJ Projects in Panjab and Waras, Bamyan.** Some of the projects selected in Panjab and Waras fulfilled an urgent educational need. The training component linked with the school project (training the school teachers about proper/appropriate behavior to children and students) was needed.

73 The school project in the district center of Panjab was processed in poor consultation with local communities nor is it based to an actual need. The school name is “Panjab District Center School”. According to the local community members, if they were consulted, they would have recommended implementing this project in a more appropriate location where other villages’ children could have benefited from it.



Figures 21 and 22: Panjab school building under construction.

74 **SVA Project in Kama, Nangarhar.** The “Mohammad Musa Shafiq girl’s school” building in Kama district of Nangarhar (phase 2/2011) is well maintained and is in good condition since its completion in 2011. The school environment is clean, windows and doors are in good condition, no major cracks are visible in the walls, except for a few minor cracks on the wall near the top of building. SVA staff reported that no latrine or drinking water supply system was included in the project due to shortage in the JPF funding.

2. Early childhood development projects and community health education program by SCJ

75 We concluded that the sustainability of the program without the IP NGO and design of both the early childhood development (ECD) and community health education program (CHEP) is questionable. This understanding was arrived at through our discussions with local communities (beneficiaries) and observations of classes.

76 The child-to-child approach for delivering hygiene promotion messages to broader groups was specifically discussed with some of CHEP participants. They informed us that their messages were accepted by their close friends in school and family members but our conclusion is that comparison of knowledge of hygiene matters between CHEP students and non-CHEP students would be a more effective tool to evaluate the impact.

77 The local individuals who were directly involved in the project implementation were more interested in the program, probably for their own self-interest. We came to this finding by our informal talks with other villagers, who were not involved with planning or implementation of the classes in the village. Classes have not been held on a regular basis as claimed by the local facilitators, NGO staff and the CDC members, this finding came out of our informal discussions with other community members outside the meeting.

78 A study to compare the impacts of ECD participants and non-participants children can show the level of effectiveness by ECD. The course facilitators claim that children exposed to ECD are better prepared for school and also have better social skills but this cannot be confirmed

3. School library projects by SVA

79 In Nangarhar, we visited the “Charbaghe Safa” high school, “Alai girl’s high school” and the public children library in SVA office in Jalalabad City. Through our discussion and interviews with school authorities, provincial education department authorities, and library managers directly involved with school library operations, they informed us that there was an appreciable increase in number of library members and number of books borrowed by students.



Figure 23: School library (does not seem to be frequently used).

80 The school library projects in Nangarhar Province by SVA were successful. Accomplishments include provision of children’s books (37 different book titles), associated furniture, bookshelves, training of teachers and bookkeepers about library management, and communication of the importance of book reading.

81 These projects have been incorporated and imbedded successfully within the structure and management of the schools. Establishment of school libraries and provision of children books seems to be the strength and strong expertise of SVA in Nangarhar Province.

82 The public library in the SVA office for children, and its services to the public pose a security challenge. Visiting an NGO office even on occasional visits, places visitors to the library at risk of Taliban attention. It also increases the risk to NGO staff, as libraries become popular, they become targets of anti-government elements. The Taliban have been increasingly targeting NGO and government staff in this region.

4. The Institute of Health Science by WVJ in Herat

83 The Institute of Health Science project is structured in two stages, first phase includes construction of a building (phase 3 of JPF program) and stage 2 entails provision and installation of educational laboratories.



Figure 24: The Institute of Health Science, Herat City - World Vision International.

84 As a general statement about the project, monitoring and supervision over the first phase of the project has been very weak or non-existent leading to provision of low quality materials (doors, windows, and fixtures). The quality of construction of the building is poor. Major deficiencies are visible.

85 During the second stage of this project, due to active presence of the institute authorities at the project site and effective monitoring and supervision over the civil works and procurement, quality of project outputs is appreciably enhanced in comparison with the first stage.

86 Cracks are visible all over the newly built walls (we could not discern whether the cracks were in the plasters or in the building structure). Doors and windows installed in the building and classrooms are of very poor quality. Quality of fixtures such as toilets, pipes, sinks, lighting, ceramics, ceilings, and the roof drainage pipes, is very low.



Figure 25 and 26: Cracks on the walls of newly constructed building. The cracks have been painted with the same color of the walls the day before our visit.

87 Many cracks are visible in the main building walls. The day before our monitoring visit, all cracks were painted over to conceal the cracks. These cracks need to be checked by a structural engineer to find out the seriousness of the structural flaws in the building and to propose appropriate solutions for repair.

88 The air conditioning system for the building (the chiller system) is not functional. The reason mentioned by IP NGO was lack of electricity while a separate power transmission system is installed for the facility. The air conditioning situation in the building is in very bad condition as stated by the authorities and the building does not have an alternative system.

89 We strongly recommend that the balance of payments related to the first stage be withheld and a technical assessment to be conducted of the building and facilities/fixtures provided. The IP NGO, WVJ, and the subcontractor should be held accountable.

90 The training and capacity development component of the project is well appreciated by the institute as continuous refresher training for the instructors is noted as useful and successful by the institute administration and authorities.

5. School projects by NICCO/RAZI

91 The school building constructions in both Abjalil and Shamaan villages are selected based on an actual need. Local stakeholders confirm the good quality and progress of construction. Lack of a boundary wall around each school in both projects, has been described as a major problem especially for girl schools as it is outside the social norms of the country.

92 There is a difference between the system designed for the septic tank of the toilets in these projects compared to other JPF funded projects in other provinces (Kabul, and Parwan). For example some problems were reported related to the SVA school in Kabul as mentioned in the Phase 1 report.

93 In this design the septic tanks are located directly under the toilet seating area while in other cases like SVA project in Kabul the septic tank is located behind the toilet and is linked to the main seating area with an improper slope which has caused the waste to collect under the seating area of toilet without being transferred to the septic tank. We would advise that the functionality of the two designs needs to be checked and compared.

6. Literacy and support for home gardening for women projects by NICCO/RAZI in Herat

94 Local women welcomed the literacy classes and about 20 women in each village participated in the course. The course has been described as effective in increasing the level of literacy among the local women and increasing their general knowledge about their environment and their personal and family health.

95 Home/kitchen gardening support for women which includes training on vegetable gardening and provision of simple/basic agricultural tools is appreciated and adopted by local beneficiaries but is not identified as fundamental and crucial for livelihoods improvement. Limited number of beneficiaries (10 women in each village) and difficulties for allocation of beneficiaries have been identified as a problematic and challenging.

96 Inclusion of basic support to agriculture in this area is strongly recommended by local stakeholders. These areas of support as identified by the local stakeholders include provision and improvement of irrigation water resources (deep water well and irrigation canals).

7. Vocational training center by NICCO/RAZI in Herat

97 The Vocational Training Center is targeting female graduates from Herat university and students in their final year as its primary beneficiaries. Female applicants from outside the university are also accepted and for this reason location of the training center has been strategically located at the university entrance gate.

98 As stated by some of the course beneficiaries (graduates) the quality of English and computer classes are satisfactory but assistance in job placement is very important to them. Activities of this center are important for women empowerment in Herat City.

8. The irrigation canal project by NICCO/RAZI in Herat

99 The irrigation project in Robatsangi district of Herat includes a flood control wall and 17 water control gates system on the minor irrigation canals with metal plate gates. As described by local farmers, the wall has been effective in protecting about 500 jeribs (Jerib is a traditional unit of land measurement in the Middle East and southwestern Asia. It is a unit of area used to measure land holdings and is equal to an acre or hectare.) of farmland and protected canals from erosion and being washed out.

100 The water control structures have been successful in water management.

101 Currently the traditional irrigation canals are heavily silted and eroded with no proper protection and maintenance, limiting the capacity for water transfer. To increase the positive impact of this phase 1 JPF project, local farmers request JPF to extend another 30 to 50 meters to the existing flood control wall to protect against seasonal floods. Doing this will provide protection to another 1,000 jeribs of farmland.

102 Home/kitchen gardening support for women (training for vegetable gardening and provision of simple/basic agricultural tools) in Abjalil and Shaman villages of Enjil district are appreciated and adopted by local beneficiaries. Women are the primary focus of this program but men also have been involved. The beneficiaries also receive training on kitchen gardening and marketing support.

103 The kitchen gardening program has been converted to "Green House" farming during the winter for more productivity. Basic training and simple gardening equipment have also been provided to the local beneficiaries. Limited number of beneficiaries (10 women in each village) and difficulties for allocation of beneficiaries have been identified as problematic and challenging.

104 Distribution of "improved wheat seeds" and "saffron onion" to local beneficiaries are associated with provision of training and basic equipment for wheat harvesting and saffron processing.

105 According to the local beneficiaries, the agricultural supports have been useful and welcomed but there is a very strong belief that the most fundamental issue of agriculture in Herat Province and in Enjil district is the supply of "irrigation water". Their recommendation to

JPF is to focus on this issue and consider cited examples of drilling deep wells and improving irrigation canals.

IV. PHASE 3

A. Findings of Projects in Pakistan

1. Federally Administered Tribal Areas

106 There are three projects planned for monitoring in FATA, two in Kurum district and one project in Orakzai. In Kurum, the two projects implemented by JEN are (i) distribution of roof-repairing kits for winter and (ii) water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) – repairing of water facilities, hygiene promotion. In Orakzai, livelihood recovery (cow distribution) is also implemented by JEN.

107 Silkroad consultants in Pakistan were advised not to visit FATA by Mr. Tufail, the person-in-charge of DIK operations because of the very difficult security situation. Mr. Tufail informed us that both the projects were completed in December 2013 but due to the dangerous situation, JEN staff have not been able to visit Kurum for the last 10 months. The situation in FATA is extremely volatile.

2. Government primary schools, Kherabad, Nowshera

108 Our monitoring staff visited two schools (i) Government Primary School for Boys, Kherabad, Nowshera and (ii) Government Primary School for Girls, Kherabad, Nowshera. Most of the students are Afghan refugees with some Pakistan IDPs from Waziristan.

109 Currently there are approximately 600,000 IDPs who fled from areas of conflict and 1,700,000 Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. Many of them are being forced to live in the harsh environment of refugee camps with underdeveloped infrastructure in the northwestern region and its surrounding areas.

110 In the Nowshera district, the lack of classrooms for the number of students was a serious problem for many schools. AAR was informed by the Department of Education that there was a school where about 80 children were studying in a classroom designed for 40 to 50 children. Another school provided only two classrooms for 241 students. As a result, there were children who were attending class sitting on the floor with no desks or chairs in cold winters. Furthermore, many schools had broken toilets and wash basins and did not have good sanitary conditions.

111 Health of the students has improved with the installation of toilets and wash basins and provision of hygiene information. Personal hygiene knowledge imparted to educate teachers, students, and their parents on basic hygiene procedures, has reduced the number of students reporting sick to school, and thereby aided their learning by increased attendance. Beneficiaries of hygiene information (both students and teachers) spread the knowledge that they acquired to their families and friends and have had a positive multiplier effect.

112 The School Extension/Rehabilitation Project is near completion. Mr. Mohammed Asif of KP's education department reported that the newly constructed classrooms are adequate for student enrollment for the next five years.

113 The monitoring team could not meet with students due to the ongoing summer vacation, however, we interviewed some of the parents, teaching staff, and officials of education department and their overall impression is that they are very appreciative of the JPF support and requested continued support in the education sector. Officials of KP's education department, AAR, and representatives of Kherabad community selected the schools. We noticed that the staff of AAR all seemed well-informed about tribal sensitivities and culture, with female staff particularly hard working.

114 Suggestions:

- (i) The needs at the refugee camps are huge. Priority should be given to provision of clean water as many are affected by polluted water causing sickness that the poor can ill-afford. This was conveyed to us by a number of residents in the camp.
- (ii) The Project's hygiene awareness programme at Kherabad camp is having a beneficial impact on public health and our suggestion is to extend the programme and continue in the future. The members of the camp requested for lighting, provision of a basic health clinic, and informal educational facilities.

3. Livelihood recovery project for internally displaced persons in DIK

115 The local government official, Deputy Commissioner Irfanullah Mehsood, was unhappy that JEN staff did not consult with them in the design and objective of the project. He informed us that during the preparation of the project proposal, JEN staff did not consult with the government. He would have informed them that he would not agree to the project proposal. He would have suggested alternative projects that would reflect their priorities.

116 The coordination between project staff and government administration was very poor. Their urgent needs include finding ways to support existing health facilities, WASH, providing emergency shelters, and education for IDP children.

117 The IDP representative expressed satisfaction that the project provided milk to their children and excess milk produced was sold or bartered for food items. Some goats were killed and dried as source of meat protein and small amounts of dried and fresh meat were sold. Meager income was generated through these activities.

118 The Livestock Extension Workers (LEWs) provided information that led to improved goat production. Livestock management sessions with JEN staff increased the awareness of the community regarding livestock management. The project is sustainable as many of the displaced persons have experience in livestock grazing and access to pasture from nearby grazing areas, which has abundant grass.

119 IDPs requested assistance for clean drinking water, lighting systems, basic health services, and educational facilities for children.

COMPONENT 2

**DATA AND INFORMATION COLLECTION
AND ANALYSIS**

COMPONENT 2: DATA AND INFORMATION COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

V. SUMMARY

A. Introduction

120 Afghanistan's recovery has been an arduous and controversial process marred in mismanagement of aid and lack of fiduciary oversight. Though hundreds of millions of dollars have flowed into the country to assist the reconstruction process, the underlying causes of chronic poverty, conflict, and instability have not been sufficiently addressed. Afghanistan's institutions still lack the capacity to effectively provide basic service delivery to its citizens and the government remains almost entirely dependent on foreign aid. The protracted and expanding conflict and frequent natural disasters have compounded the humanitarian needs of the country while donors are simultaneously drawing down their financial support. This has created a large financing gap and humanitarian organizations in Afghanistan struggling to implement the necessary lifesaving interventions.

121 The assignment included collecting information, analyzing data, and making recommendations to JPF to identifying priorities for their humanitarian investments. Silkroad staff contacted donors engaged in humanitarian work such as Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO), Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to collect information on their programs and the humanitarian issues in Afghanistan. Silkroad also researched development and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and Afghan refugees living in Pakistan.

122 In this report, the structure is as follows:

- (i) Chapter 1 provides a situational analysis examining the multi-dimensional humanitarian situation in Afghanistan as well as the operating policy environments.
- (ii) Chapter 2 provides an overview of the driving factors of population movements and as assessment of the humanitarian needs in the country.
- (iii) Chapter 3 provides both design and operational recommendations to inform JPF's humanitarian strategy in Afghanistan.

VI. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

1. Aid

123 Since 2001 the International Community has committed tens of billions of dollars in development and military aid to rebuild Afghanistan. This effort has achieved notable development gains throughout the country in the areas of health, agriculture, education, infrastructure, and human rights. However, the worsening conflict trends over the past five years coupled with a fragile economy and various natural disasters have produced over 722,000 IDPs¹.

¹ OCHA www.ocha.org.

124 In Afghanistan, bilateral financing channel is the principle source of humanitarian funding. The 2014 Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) requested for \$406 million in financing to meet only the most urgent needs and to have the capacity deliver lifesaving interventions.

125 As of October 2014, 60% of the funding request has been met making the Afghanistan's CHAP one of the most well funded appeals globally. In addition, \$117 million in humanitarian assistance has been committed outside of the Strategic Response Plan through alternative implementing modalities². This indicates that donors still recognize their need for commitment to Afghanistan in the face of a growing number of competing priorities.

126 The 2014 London Conference on December 4th will provide donors with a platform to reaffirm their commitment to the future of Afghanistan in military, development, and humanitarian aid.

2. Political transition

127 After a prolonged and highly contested presidential election, the Ghani administration comes into a government with empty coffers and a presumed \$700 million deficit. While early actions have demonstrated that the incumbent government is one of reform, the government is yet to appoint a new cabinet or announce new national development priorities. This inhibits both the development and humanitarian communities from strategizing operational future directions in conjunction with the new Afghan administration.

128 Additionally while the economic growth of the country was at an enviable 9.4% from 2003 to 2012 the resultant delays in the Presidential election process combined with a perception of US disengagement from Afghanistan has greatly increased uncertainty about future growth and stability. This has resulted in a severe contraction in economic growth; economic analysts estimate that the Afghan economy will grow by only 1.5% in the coming year, this will result in a substantial reduction of government revenue and a sharp rise in unemployment as men and women fail to find jobs in what will be a shrinking job market³.

3. Policy

129 Bilateral agencies working in development (education, agriculture, and livelihood) rather than participating in the humanitarian relief effort are mandated to channel at least 50% of their funds on-budget through government systems, in line with internationally ratified Aid Effectiveness agreements (Paris Declaration, Accra Agreement, and the recent New Deal). Furthermore, development agency programs need to be at least 80% aligned with the Governments National Priority Programs.

130 However, due to the increasing acute emergency observed in the humanitarian sector, there was an urgent need to distinguish the humanitarian sector from the longer term development needs of the country. Further deterioration prompted government and United Nations (UN) action to further refine the distinction of humanitarian sector to address only acute needs by providing lifesaving measures.

² Protecting the Most Vulnerable: Humanitarian Needs in Afghanistan. A Paper for the 2014 London Conference on Afghanistan ACBAR www.acbar.org/

³ World Bank, October 2014 Afghanistan Economic Review

131 A positive development for the humanitarian community came in the November 2013 passing of the National IDP policy, a Government of Afghanistan and UN initiative to provide a policy level framework to address needs and security of the displaced. The policy provides guidance on the emergency needs and provides legally sanctioned land rights to IDPs residing on government owned and private land. The introduction of these rights creates a venue for implementation of durable solutions for IDPs rather than focusing on provision of short term needs.

VII. A PROTRACTED HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

132 At the beginning of 2014, the UN estimated that out of Afghanistan's total population of 30 million people, 9 million Afghans will be in need of humanitarian assistance⁴. The protracted humanitarian emergency in Afghanistan has two principle drivers: the ongoing armed conflict between the national government and anti-government elements and natural disasters.

133 As foreign troops withdraw a security vacuum has been created. The Afghan National Army continues to struggle with anti government elements (AGEs) countrywide and in many cases the AGEs have been successful at retrenching themselves in areas which were previously under control of Coalition forces. As the conflict spreads and intensifies, an increasing number of people are becoming reliant on humanitarian aid for survival.

134 IDP settlements are growing in size and number, stretching already dwindling resources with 40% of IDPs residing in overcrowded and poor quality shelters. As winter approaches, winterization efforts are under way however, a substantial funding gap will leave out many of those in need. The UN reports that every month thousands more IDPs are registering particularly in the volatile southern province of Helmand.

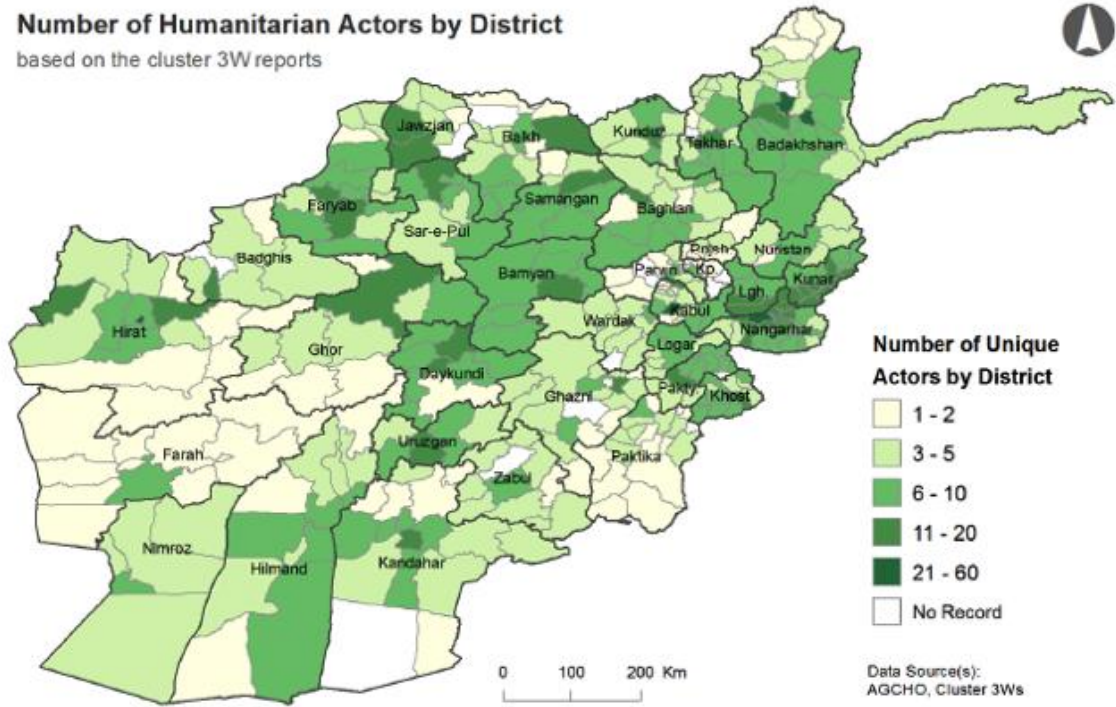
135 Furthermore, Afghanistan remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world for aid workers with the highest numbers of aid worker deaths, injuries, and abductions⁵. Access to assist those with acute need has been compounded by conflict, geographical remoteness, and increased insecurity. An annual mapping exercise by OCHA included below, demonstrates the inverse correlation between areas of need and the presence of international actors.

⁴ IRC: Protecting the most vulnerable: Humanitarian Needs in Afghanistan, 2014 p.2

⁵ OCHA Press Release, Danger Levels Spike for Aid Workers: Increasing Numbers Killed, Kidnapped or Injured' August 19, 2014

Number of Humanitarian Actors by District

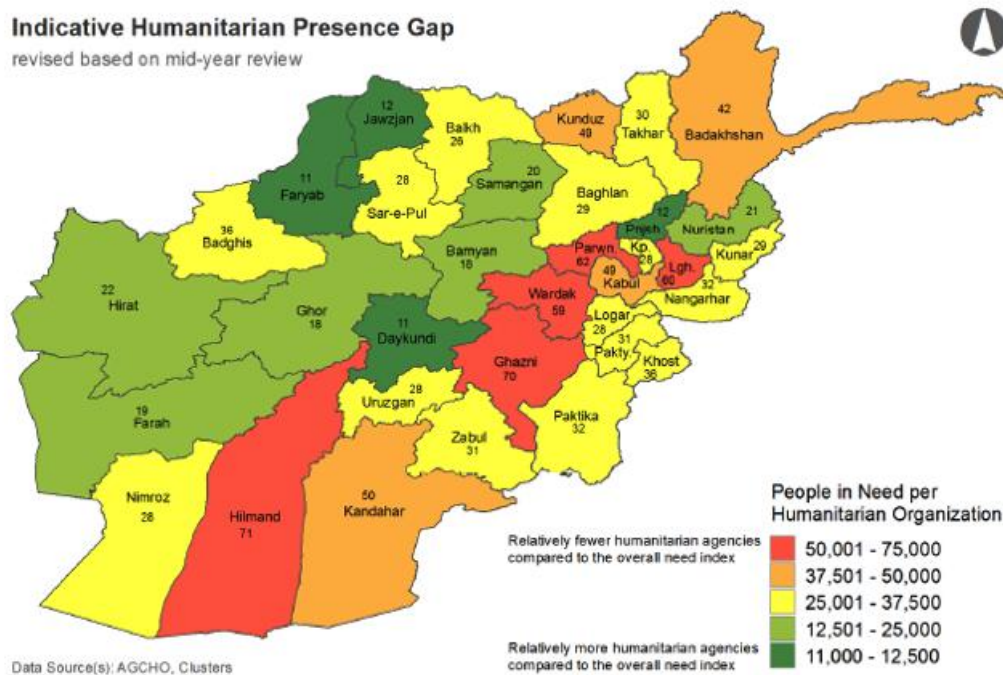
based on the cluster 3W reports



3W provided by clusters: ES&NF1 July-14; FSAC July-14; Health July-14; Nutrition July-14; Protection July-14; WASH July-14. Note: The protection 3W does not represent 1) human rights violations monitoring activities (covering all accessible districts), 2) the broader coverage area of services (only the district the service is located in is represented while the coverage may extend to multiple districts), 3) advocacy at the national level.

Indicative Humanitarian Presence Gap

revised based on mid-year review



1. Conflict

136 The worsening conflict trends over the last year indicate that civilians continue to suffer due to ongoing armed conflict between the central government and AGE. In 2014 there has been a 24% increase in civilian deaths over civilian casualties incurred in 2013. This is the highest civilian death toll since 2001⁶.

137 Consequently there has been an upsurge of large population movements nationwide as civilians flee the conflict to more secure areas. Internal displacement has been raising over the past year, with current estimates indicating that 722,000 Afghans have become IDPs displaced as result of the ongoing conflict, a number which is projected to continue increasing over at least the next 12 months⁷.

138 UNHCR reports indicate that the most significant population displacement has occurred in Faryab Province in the North where 258 families (1,548 individuals) are living in makeshift shelters or have been taken in by their host community⁸. Consistent levels of displacement are being reported in the eastern region as well as in the western region of Farah and Ghor, due to intimidation by AGEs. Access to these areas have been restricted due to security concerns however, attempts are being made as humanitarian actors continue to negotiate for access.

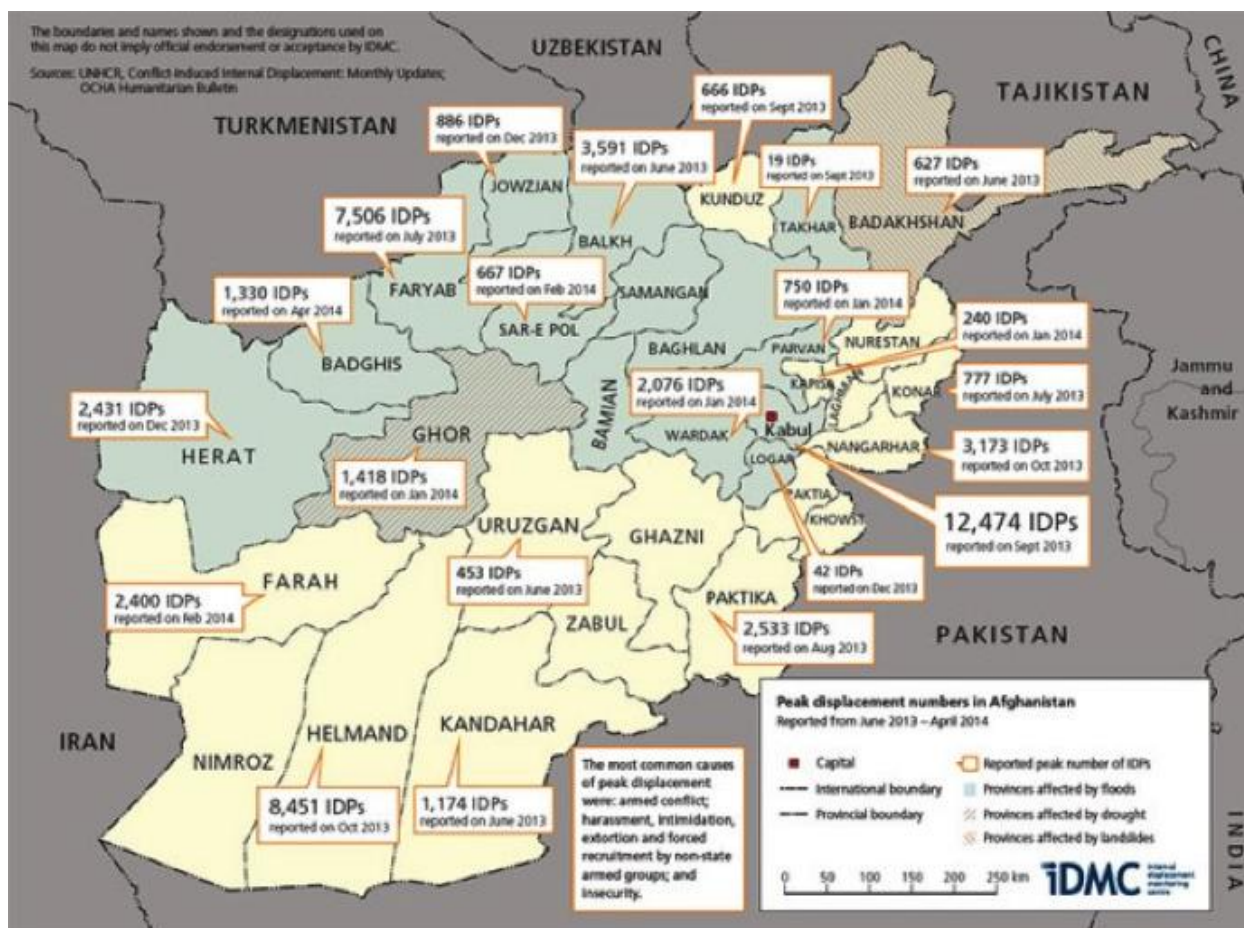
139 An enduring feature of the ongoing conflict Afghanistan is the importance of shared tribal and ideological identities on the Afghan-Pakistan border. Pakistan is also faced with a long running insurgency on the border of eastern Afghanistan, including the restive Waziristan. This year a military operation by the Pakistani army against AGE in Waziristan has driven 10,000 families out of their homes and across the border to the neighboring Afghan provinces of Khost and Paktika and Paktya. The WFP has provided some limited emergency food relief to 600 IDP families in Khost and additional food dispatches are planned for all registered refugees.⁹ While the donors focus on the humanitarian mission in Afghanistan, this is yet another stark reminder of how the conflict and humanitarian crisis is closely linked to the border regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

⁶ Protecting the most vulnerable: Humanitarian Needs in Afghanistan, 2014 p.2

⁷ UNOCHA www.unocha.org/Afghanistan. Accessed October 28, 2014

⁸ UNHCR March 2014 Afghan IDP Situation Report

⁹ WFP Situation Report #04 May, 2014



140 Adding to the rapid urban growth in Afghan cities, an influx of IDPs continue to settle in urban centers such as Kabul City in an attempt to achieve security and receive access to service. Forty percent of IDPs are estimated to live in or around the major cities of Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, and Kandahar In Kabul City alone there are 55 informal settlements housing approximately 31,000 individuals. IDPs have constructed settlements around the city, building their temporary shelters with low quality materials such as tarpaulins and blankets. The conditions in these settlements are deplorable and inhabitants lack access to shelter, food, water, health care, as well as hygiene and sanitation.

2. Natural disaster

141 In addition to the armed conflict contributing to vulnerability and the displacement of people in Afghanistan there is also the challenge of natural disasters. Afghanistan is prone is to frequent and recurring natural disasters including drought earthquakes, floods, landslides, and avalanches.

142 The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2002) estimates that since the early 1980s, natural disasters in Afghanistan have killed an estimated 19,000 people and displaced 7.5 million people.

143 Winters in Afghanistan can be extremely severe. Heavy snowfall frequently cut off remote villages from the rest of the country for weeks or months at a time and the freezing

temperatures can wreak havoc on poorly sheltered IDPs resulting in many men, women, and children succumbing to the cold. When spring arrives the rapid snowmelt can result in disastrous flooding and mudslides. Earlier this year in Badakshan, half the village of Aab Barik was swept away in seconds by a massive mudslide killing hundreds of people and displacing hundreds more.

144 Another catalyst for devastating land and mudslides are frequent earthquakes in Afghanistan. The Chaman Fault, a major, active geological fissure that separates the Eurasian Plate from the Indo-Australian Plate, runs across Afghanistan and is the source of many earthquakes in the north, northeastern and eastern parts of Afghanistan. Almost once a year earthquakes along the Chaman Fault spark fatal landslides with the potential to kill scores of people and displace many thousands.

145 In addition to the humanitarian dangers imposed by the extreme winters and frequent earthquakes in Afghanistan, intermittent periods of drought are also a frequent source of humanitarian crisis here in Afghanistan. The United Nation's Environment Program (UNEP) highlights Afghanistan as one of the countries most impacted by climate change. Climate scientist at UNEP have observed a downward trend in rainfall in Afghanistan for the past two decades, the country is clearly getting hotter and drier. Afghanistan suffered a severe drought from 1998–2006 and another in 2008–2009 and is currently battling another drought with serious consequences for food security.

3. Health and nutrition

146 Afghanistan's health sector has made considerable gains since 2001. The maternal mortality ratio has dropped from 1,600 in 2002 to 327 and infant and child mortality rates have dropped from 97 to 77 and 257 to 165 respectively¹⁰. The improvements in indicators should be applauded but more work remains to be done. Afghanistan health status is still one of the worst in the world with indicators three to five times higher than those of neighboring counties¹¹. Preventable communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria are a major cause of mortality and epidemics such as cholera, polio, measles, and meningitis are frequent.

147 The 2013 nutrition survey revealed alarming shortfalls in child nutrition in Afghanistan. The survey indicated that 55% of children suffering from chronic malnutrition and one out of every ten children suffering from acute malnutrition¹². Contrary to other countries experiencing chronic malnutrition, the epidemic in Afghanistan is not attributable to the lack of food. As the Nutrition Survey demonstrated, malnutrition in Afghanistan is due to lack of adequate health care, lack of clean drinking water and hygiene, as well as negative cultural practices.

148 The government administered Basic Package of Health Care System (BPHS) is intended to provide basic health care to all of Afghanistan's 30 million citizens. Implemented through an NGO contracting modality, 80% of the project is delivered through NGOs in 30 out of 34 provinces¹³. Though few NGOs continue to operate in some of the most conflict-inflicted areas, the ability of NGOs to recruit and retain staff to work outside of Kabul is steadily

¹⁰ World Bank 2014 Spring Snapshots p. 11

¹¹ WHO Afghanistan <http://www.who.int/hac/donorinfo/afg/en/index1.html>

¹² World Bank Afghanistan Spring Snapshots p. 11

¹³ 2014 Afghanistan Strategic Response Plan p.3

decreasing forcing NGOs to compromise standards in the recruitment of health care professionals¹⁴.

149 Furthermore, as the conflict intensifies across the country, there is a growing need for health care workers to be proficient in administering emergency trauma care. The 2014 SRP reports an increase in wounded of 28%; an increase in the number of Afghans killed in the conflict of 13%; an increase in people seeking treatment for weapon wounds of 60%; and a 38% increase in women and children wounded coupled with a reduction in access to and delivery of essential health care.

4. Food

150 Although 60% of Afghans are connected to the struggling agricultural sector, irrigated land is scarce and wheat requirements of the country need to be met through imports from Pakistan however, the conflict in Pakistan's border regions has significantly slowed cross border trade.

151 In addition to the challenges posed by the scarcity of irrigable land and the armed conflict, flooding has further reduced access to cultivatable land. This year, in the north/north eastern bread basket regions of Afghanistan, severe flooding is estimated to have destroyed 34,000 acres of cultivated land. The consequent limited access to food now leaves 10.2 million Afghans food insecure or worse.

152 IDPs who have lost their access to income, assets, and exhausted their typical coping strategies, remain dependent on food aid for their survival. Those urban based IDPs who are fortunate enough to find employment reportedly spend up to 90% of their income on food alone¹⁵.

153 The UN CHAP response to food security in Afghanistan faces significant challenges when it comes to redressing these critical shortfalls in food access. Underfunding of the World Food Programme's mission in Afghanistan has forced the agency to reduce calories per person from 2,100 to 1,500 per day for over a million people in order to continue providing food to its recipients¹⁶.

¹⁴ United States Institute of Peace, Humanitarian Space Shrinking for Health Program Delivery in Afghanistan and Pakistan, October 4, 2014

¹⁵ OCHA 2014 Humanitarian Needs Overview p.10

¹⁶ IRIN: WFP shortfall fuels Afghan funding fears: <http://www.irinnews.org/report/100705/wfp-shortfall-fuels-afghan-funding-fears>



VIII. DONOR INTERVIEWS

A. Department for International Development

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154 The United Kingdom (UK) has been one of the largest providers of aid to Afghanistan in both military and development assistance. As the drawdown of the British military continues, the UK is realigning their focus to construct a viable state through development objectives such as increasing government capacity for service delivery (through the ARTF) as well as supporting the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable¹⁷. The UK DFID is currently developing the agency's multi-year (2014–2018) Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) for Afghanistan. Set to be approved by the Secretary General in December 2014, the Plan will undergo annual review to assess emerging acute humanitarian need and address strategic humanitarian priorities.

155 DFID's current strategy for support is delivered through four modalities, which includes the policy objective to reduce the impact of conflict and natural disasters through effective humanitarian aid.

- (i) **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).** The ICRC has enjoyed continuous presence and is one of the most entrenched INGOs in the Afghanistan

¹⁷ DFID Operational Plan 2011-2015 www.dfid.gov.uk

humanitarian sphere. Since 1989 the ICRC has been active in Afghanistan establishing deep-rooted connections in local communities while fostering trust and collaboration with regional tribal entities. The ICRC's commitment to neutrality and impartiality enable the organization better provide protection and assistance to vulnerable groups in situations of armed conflict. Recognizing the Afghan contexts severe limitations of access, DFID is channeling £5m per annum in bilateral aid to the ICRC for the implementation of programs in areas of livelihoods, emergency trauma and care, health, water and sanitation, tracing, and dissemination of knowledge on International Humanitarian Law particularly in the South and East of the country where security constraints to aid delivery are the most severe.

- (ii) **Common Humanitarian Fund.** DFID main source of humanitarian support is delivered primarily through the UN's Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), the pooled funding mechanism managed by the UNOCHA. DFID intends to contribute £10m per annum to the CHF to address needs on the basis of priorities set by the UN's 2014 Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP). DFID is a member of the CHF Advisory Board and is therefore able to advise the HC on matters of policy and strategy.
- (iii) **Resilience Program.** Although the Resilience Program component has yet to be included in the HAP, it is an important component, which will be introduced in the coming annual review. The design of the component is still under development however, DFID is able to confirm that this Program will be implemented in collaboration with an NGO consortium to introduce community-based resilience in schools. More information will become available to the public once the design is complete.
- (iv) **Capacity Building of Local NGOs.** Recognizing the lack of local capacity in many Afghan NGOs, DFID has partnered with Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR) to develop organizational effectiveness and technical skill of local NGOs. Trainings will be delivered in two modules: 1 – Program Management Skills, 2 – Sector/Cluster mentoring between INGOs and local NGOs to enable local NGOs to qualify for funding under the CHF and establish links into the cluster system. This program is also still under development and will be rolled out following the midterm review.

B. European Commission Humanitarian Organization

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156 The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) is one of the few humanitarian donors consistently supporting projects in Afghanistan since 1994. Since then, the Commission has provided over \$780 million to meet the basic humanitarian needs of the Afghan population.

157 The European Commission is providing assistance to conflict and disaster-affected communities as well as displaced people in Afghanistan guided by the annually revised Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP). Projects funded by the European Commission provide

lifesaving emergency medical care, food assistance, protection, shelter, water and sanitation, hygiene promotion, and livelihood support to people affected by conflict and natural disasters.

158 The release of the 2015 HIP is anticipated for November 2014 and will include a similar focus of the 2014 document on the meeting of acute needs but will also incorporate a deeper focus on Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (DPDRRR). In a country prone to natural disasters, ECHO continues to fund community-based disaster preparedness programs, supporting initiatives such as the building of flood-resistant infrastructure, training for trauma care, and early warning systems, amongst others. ECHO's operational structure is similar to that of JPF, funding registered implementing partners while developing uniform terms of references for all partners working on the ground, specific to the Afghan context. ECHO will mainstream DPDRRR as a requirement for their implementing NGOs as a complementing measure for humanitarian response.

C. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

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159 Since 2009, OCHA's work in Afghanistan has focused on assisting the most vulnerable by coordinating the delivery of effective humanitarian aid and principled humanitarian action the coordinating body ensure that (i) humanitarian decision making is based on a common situational awareness; (ii) humanitarian action is guided by joint strategic response planning based on prioritized needs; (iii) coordination mechanisms are adapted to the context and support the effective and coherent delivery of humanitarian assistance; and (iv) humanitarian financing is predictable, timely and allocated based on priority needs¹⁸. OCHA produces invaluable policy document such as the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP), which provide strategic focus to humanitarian actors and outlines funding requirements.

160 OCHA is tasked with managing the UN's Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) established in January 2014, providing donors with pooled funding mechanism to address needs on the basis of priorities set by the UN's CHAP. In November 2014, the 2015 CHAP will be released providing an evidence-based analysis of acute humanitarian needs with a vulnerability ranking of all districts in the country. The new CHAP will include an overview of the 3Ws (Who, What, Where), an operational presence mapping exercise, which will highlight the disproportion between geographic areas of need (South and Northern Districts) and over concentration of humanitarian actors (North East). The 2015 CHAP will outline 3 strategic objectives:

- (ii) Reduction of preventable mortality and morbidity related to disease and malnutrition;
- (iii) Reduction of maternal mortality linked to conflict i.e. ensure victims of conflict have access to primary, secondary, and tertiary care facilities; and
- (iiii) Preparedness and response to natural disaster and conflict driven displacement.

161 OCHA will be submitting a global appeal for between \$400 million–\$450 million, a potential increase of \$44 million due to financial strain of the influx of Pakistani refugees on the Eastern and Southern Boarder. OCHA notes that although they request funds following annual

¹⁸ UNOCHA website: <http://www.unocha.org/afghanistan/about-ocha-afghanistan>; Accessed October 27, 2014

review, the organization does not foresee a substantial reduction in funding needs for the coming years as the key drivers of displacement are unlikely to be resolved.

D. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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162 Australia has been a committed partner to Afghanistan's development and humanitarian needs however, having recently undergone an organizational restructuring and Parliamentary budget cuts to all foreign aid, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT, formerly AusAID) has substantially reduced their presence and the number of standalone programs in Afghanistan.

163 DFAT is currently awaiting release of their 2014/2015 humanitarian program which includes a significantly lower budget than previously projected (the figures were not disclosed). Due to the anticipated steady or increasing level of need the funding is expected to remain stable with the possibility of DFAT constructing a multi-year commitment.

164 DFAT's humanitarian aid is currently channeled through the CHF with augmented budgetary support to UNHCR and WFP.

E. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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165 UNHCR is assisting all conflict induced IDPs and refugees in Afghanistan. Currently, priority is being given to winterization efforts in preparation for the harsh winter conditions. Working alongside partners, UNCHR is distributing tents, blankets and warm clothing to the most vulnerable of those displaced.

166 UNHCR noted that Japan was the second largest donor to the program and the agency welcomes collaboration with JPF. UNHCR commended JPF's diligence in beneficiary selection process and said they would be pleased to be able to make use of JPF's skill.

167 Many IDPs in Afghanistan face long term displacement with 74,000 IDPs displaced since 2003¹⁹. A majority of IDPs lack the vocational skills needed to support their families and rely on daily wage labor which is both sporadic and underpaid. UNCHR suggested that JPF could prioritize Kabul based IDPs and focus on vocational training using private partnerships. As JPF has the ability to link the private sector to those in need of livelihood development, JPF could facilitate trainings between Japanese companies and to provide market based vocational training for IDPs could train others in a training of trainers program (TOT). For example, mechanics are in high demand in the main cities of Afghanistan while women's livelihood programs could be established with market linkages into Japan in areas of textile manufacturing. Vocational trainings and consequently, technical skills will increase the resilience of IDP families and add to their economic capacity.

¹⁹ Internal Displacement Monitoring Center: As humanitarian space shrinks, IDP policy must be implemented

F. International Organization for Migration

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168 International Organization for Migration (IOM) is one of the most active humanitarian partners in Afghanistan. IOM is responsible for provision of aid to disaster induced IDPs and management of the settlements created in response to natural disaster. IOM provides beneficiaries with:

- (i) Provision of emergency shelters: Shelter kits and NFI kits to families displaced by natural disasters (flood, landslide, riverbank erosion, earthquake, avalanche, extreme harsh winter and drought) in eight regions (33 provinces) of the country.
- (ii) Shelter and NFI assistance to natural disaster-affected people: Provision of emergency shelters, shelter kits and NFI kits to families affected by natural disasters in eight regions.
- (iii) Winterization assistance for vulnerable families: Provision of winterization kits to vulnerable families mainly in Central Highland region (Bamyan, Daikundi, Ghor provinces), Northeast region (Badakhshan Province) with focus on the most vulnerable families affected by extreme harsh winter in need of NFIs.
- (iv) Prepositioning and distribution of shelter kits to individuals affected and IDPs in each affected region.
- (v) Prepositioning and distribution of NFI/Winterization kits to ND-affected persons and IDPs in each region.
- (vi) Needs and gaps analysis (joint assessment): Mapping of IDP needs and gap analysis through countrywide joint assessments
- (vii) Community-based reintegration for vulnerable returnees
- (viii) Provision of vocational and business start-up trainings to heads of vulnerable returnee families, support for community-based construction of permanent shelters and for the implementation of community development projects in high-returnee areas.

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS

169 We believe, that given our last year's experience in monitoring and evaluation of JPF projects in Afghanistan and Pakistan, understanding acquired this year from field missions to 32 project sites, discussions with NGOs, development practitioners, beneficiaries and research that we are in a unique position to assist JPF in setting their organizational strategy.

170 The vast majority of the assistance provided in Afghanistan is based on the notion that Afghanistan is a post-conflict developmental context and it is only recently that humanitarian needs have grown in recognition. The challenge for the humanitarian community is to distinguish the humanitarian needs from the long-term developmental efforts directed at addressing the chronic poverty of the population and designing humanitarian programs that are complementary to the long-term developmental programming rather than the traditional way around.

A. Programming Recommendations

171 **Preamble – Community-Based and Participatory Approach.** All interventions by JPF should be community-based. The community-based approach is most successful and sustainable as beneficiaries are included in the design and implementation of projects. Interventions are better adapted to local realities²⁰.

172 **Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience.** There is an existing gap in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (DRRR). JPF could leverage knowledge from Japan's experiences with DRRR to equip communities by conducting training seminars on hazard mapping, early warning systems and safe havens. Disaster prone areas such as Badakshan and Faizabad are in need community managed disaster risk reduction processes to reduce risk and avoid undermining local coping strategies.

173 **Education.** Recognizing that education is a critical intervention in the future stability of Afghanistan, donors and NGOs have collaborated with the Ministry of Education to build thousands of schools and conduct teacher trainings. However, there are still challenges of supply and demand. Approximately only half of registered schools are housed in proper structures, while the rest operate in makeshift classrooms such as tents, houses and outdoor shaded areas. Of all the teachers, only 52% meet the minimum requirements and the quality of education remains very weak.

174 For children who have been displaced, education is disrupted and takes a back seat to more urgent needs of survival however, safe spaces for children and continued learning is a child right. IDP settlements lack access to formal education structures and this need could potentially be an area of operation for JPF. Given that JPF has concentrated on teacher training and school construction, the knowledge and existing resources for these projects could be directed towards mobile schools. Recently, collaboration between the government and UNICEF have resulted in the provision of 60 mobile schools for Wazir children displaced in Paktika province for 3,000 children²¹. More of these initiatives are needed.

175 JPF also had success with support to CBS and libraries. Information collected from the stakeholders indicated that CBS enabled girls to attend schools as parents were comforted with schools located in their villages. CBS also provided schooling to children that otherwise could not attend schools located at a distant village. Libraries installed at a village in proximity to other villages resulted in effecting social cohesion and exposure to many subjects.

176 JPF resources could also be directed at female teacher education as currently there is insufficient number of female teachers particularly in rural areas. Female teachers account for 31% in primary and secondary education. This puts an extra strain for provision of education both formal, through government schools and through flexible approaches, such as CBS and accelerated learning centers in mobile schools²².

177 **WASH.** JPF's support to school infrastructure and provision to access and use of improved water sources and information dissemination of proper hygiene and sanitation practices resulted in less members of community becoming ill from diarrhea diseases. JPF could assist displaced returnees and host communities through WASH interventions.

²⁰ Protecting the most vulnerable: Humanitarian Needs in Afghanistan, 2014 p.2

²¹ Afghanistan Times Government sets schools for displaced Wazir children in Paktika, October 28, 2014

²² An community comes together to ensure girls education. UNICEF. October, 2013

178 **Health.** Many of JPF stakeholders expressed the need for health services. JPF could consider supporting Health Posts (HP). At the community level, basic health services are delivered by community health workers (CHWs) from their own homes, which function as community health posts. A health post, ideally staffed by one female and one male CHW, cover a catchments area of 1,000–1,500 people, which is equivalent to 100–150 families. CHWs offer limited curative care, including diagnosis and treatment of malaria, diarrhea, and acute respiratory infections such as pneumonia and other health services.²³

B. Operational Recommendations

179 **Monitoring.** Monitoring of projects by implementing NGOs in most cases was less than satisfactory. Contractors engaged by the INGO did shoddy work on school building. Given the level of fraud and corruption in the country, it would not be surprising if it has filtered to the implementing NGOs, Needed is at least quarterly supervision/monitoring, especially of infrastructure projects to better assess the quality of implementation and the impact of the program. Increasing monitoring requirements in line with good practice guidelines will ensure the quality of the project remains at a high standard.

180 **Use Conflict Sensitive Program Management.** JPF funding of livelihood projects in FATA region of Pakistan were of marginal success and not considered as priority by the authorities in the area. The Afghan-Pakistani border has been under the siege of violence and terror, which has made it a breeding ground for instability and extremism, thus keeping communities at the brink of poverty and sufferings. In areas where state actors hold little legitimacy, an international NGO proposed to apply a context-relevant and conflict-sensitive approach for communities in Afghan-Pakistan border to empower community members to collaborate with the government, laying the foundation for peace and development. Projects included rural girls and boys in conflict-affected areas have increased access to safe community-based education opportunities and appropriate WASH facilities.

²³ A Basic Package of Health Services for Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health,– 2010/1389