



**ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE HUMANITARIAN / RESIDENT COORDINATOR  
ON THE USE OF CERF GRANTS**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Afghanistan</b>
<b>Humanitarian / Resident Coordinator</b>	<b>Bo Asplund</b>
<b>Reporting Period</b>	<b>January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007</b>

**I. Executive Summary**

On 21 April 2007, the Government of Iran suddenly began to deport large numbers of Afghan nationals living in Iran illegally. The deportation was channeled through two western border crossing points, Zaranj (Nimroz Province) and Islam Qala (Herat Province). This resulted in an acute humanitarian situation, which caught both the Government of Afghanistan and the international community off guard.

The deportees arrived at the border points unable to feed themselves and their family members. For several years they had been living in Iran with access to food, education and health facilities. With their sudden deportation, they had to leave all their assets behind. Similarly, when they arrived in Afghanistan, they had no source of income and no place to stay. For some, their places of origin were in current conflict areas.

Deportations took place within a complex national environment. The Afghan security situation is extremely volatile and insecurity is a major concern. The West and the South have experienced the greatest concentration of fighting. With unemployment in rural areas high, especially amongst youth and unskilled laborers, and with no basic necessities or cash in hand, families are vulnerable, particularly women and children. If immediate support is not provided, the level of insecurity may further deteriorate. Men could easily join Anti Government Elements (AGE) or help to harvest poppy, thereby increasing the yield, negatively affecting field operations and access to many areas.

As there was no existing Government preparedness/contingency plan in place to address refugee returns or deportations, the UN took the lead in providing resource assistance, although activities had already been initiated through various Ministries and humanitarian agencies.

After an initial peak, the number of deportees stayed steady with approximately 3,000 families arriving per month until the winter of 2007 slowed the flow. It is estimated that there are over one million illegal Afghan migrants living in Iran, and that deportations are likely to continue. The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG) / Resident Coordinator (RC) / Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), therefore, made the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) request for a 3-month period (Jun-Aug 2007) as a Rapid Response to help up to 10,000 families.

CERF assistance not only saved lives but also gave the vulnerable families hope for the future, helping them to begin to reintegrate into Afghanistan. In addition, the assistance helped protect family members and gave heads of household an opportunity to look for suitable jobs.

Total amount of humanitarian funding required and received (per reporting year).	<b>Agencies</b>	<b>WFP</b>	<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>IOM</b>
	<b>Required: \$</b>	1,075,552	762,803	432,679	2,840,143
Total amount of CERF funding received by funding window.	<b>Received: \$</b>	1,075,552	762,803	432,679	2,840,143
	<b>Rapid Response: \$</b>	1,075,552	762,803	432,679	2,840,143
Total amount of CERF funding for direct UN agency/IOM implementation and total amount forwarded to implementing partners.	<b>Grand Total: \$</b>	<b>5,111,177</b>			
	<b>Total UN agencies/IOM:</b>	<b>\$ 5,111,177</b>			
Total number of beneficiaries reached with CERF funding (disaggregated by sex/age)	<b>Total implementing partners:</b>				
	<b>Agencies</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>&gt; 5</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>
	<b>WFP</b>	87,000	17,400	42666	44,408
	<b>UNICEF</b>	175,000	3,000	5,000	
	<b>WHO</b>	60,000	12,000	30,000	30,000
<b>IOM</b>	38,400				
Geographic areas of implementation	Herat, Nimroz, Farah and Ghor				

**World Food Programme (WFP)** - WFP Herat Area Office provided a one-month food ration to cover the immediate needs of 13,878 deportees who arrived in Farah province, followed by a Food-for-Work programme targeting 13,512 deportees. CERF granted WFP \$1.1 million to enable this response.

As the deportation of families decreased during the second half of 2007, the balance of the CERF contribution was re-programmed under drought response. Through this intervention, WFP provided 59,684 beneficiaries with food assistance through food-for-work projects in Ghor Province, one of the weakest Afghan provinces in terms of food security.

**World Health Organization (WHO)** - Based on reports, more than 1,000 people may have lost their lives after being unable to reach health facilities due to heavy snowfall. WHO provided returnees and deportees from Iran as well as host communities with increased access to basic health services, including lifesaving emergency supplies sufficient for 10,000 people.

WHO also supported regional and provincial hospitals which provided emergency surgical care to victims of the harsh winter. More than 200 patients received surgical care in the health facilities of the western provinces (Herat Regional Hospital); WHO also delivered four well-equipped ambulances to the Afghan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), improving the referral system.

**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** - Over a three-month period (Jun-Aug 2007) UNICEF implemented various projects as a Rapid Response, including setting up water access points and tankering water into communities (est. 5,000 beneficiaries), providing non-food items to 5,000 families (est. 35,000 beneficiaries), providing school tents for 8,400 students, drugs and medical supplies for 140,000 people and nutritional supplements to aid 3,000 children with severe malnutrition and 5,000 breast-feeding mothers.

**International Organization for Migration (IOM)** - IOM's CERF-funded relief activities played a vital role in meeting the immediate relief needs of 6,400 vulnerable Afghan families (38,400 persons) deported from Iran, a figure which exceeded the grant's original 5,000 families as targeted beneficiaries. Overall IOM's relief activities targeted three specific groups of needs: a) shelter, b) non-food items and c) secondary transport assistance. Assistance was provided according to the specific needs of each family; therefore not all 6,400 families received the same type of assistance.

IOM's procurement injected over \$ 1.5 million to the Afghan private sector (Non-food items (NFI) manufacturers /wholesalers as well as transportation providers, among others).

## II. Coordination and Partnership-building

Data and information collection from the borders with Iran and the neighbouring provinces was used to identify needs; it was soon realized that response to the magnitude of the problems was beyond the capacity of the national government. Thereafter, the situation was analyzed by the national government and the UN Country Team (UNCT).

**(a) Decision-making process:**

At the provincial level in Herat, Nimroz and Farah, UN Agencies formally established task forces of key stakeholders including United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP, IOM and the Department of Repatriation and Refugees (DoRR). The task forces developed scenarios and contingency plans to assist the deportees with a timely response.

Joint assessments were conducted by the stakeholders during the month of May 2007 in the provinces of Farah and Nimroz to verify the conditions and to identify the needs. As a result, the UN jointly requested CERF funding to assist an estimated 10,000 families who were expected to be deported from June to August 2007.

**(b) Coordination amongst the humanitarian country team:**

While developing the contingency plan, regular coordination meetings were held amongst the stakeholders, including government counterparts. Outcomes of the meetings were communicated to the Country Team in Kabul for follow-up and action. Mechanisms for the distribution of food and non-food items, transportation, security arrangement and reporting were established.

**(c) Partnerships:**

During the implementation process, scenarios for further deportations were developed, and mechanisms for assistance and coordination were refined, resulting in a detailed contingency plan. The task force has continuously reviewed the contingency plan as well the mechanisms of coordination and implementation. In addition, the close collaboration between the UN Agencies, GoA and other stakeholders has helped increase the capacity of the concerned government departments.

**(d) Prioritization process:**

Priorities were set by the task force for each province and in close collaboration between task forces in the two regions concerned.

## **Coordination Issues for Individual Agency Programs**

### **WFP**

All WFP planned food interventions were implemented in line with the WFP's ongoing Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 10427) and as previously agreed with the GoA. At the provincial level, projects were implemented in coordination with Government authorities (mainly the Provincial Disaster Management Team, Provincial Department of Refugees and Returnees and the Provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development Office (RRD), UNAMA, IOM, other UN Agencies and key stakeholders, including Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT).

Food-for-Work projects were proposed by Community Development Councils (CDCs), selected by the Provincial Department of Rehabilitation and Rural Development (DRRD) office in consultation with WFP.

The interventions benefited from the operational and logistics structures that served WFP's on-going activities in the western region under the responsibility of WFP's Herat Area Office.

The lead-time for supplying food to, and within, Afghanistan is very long due to both logistical and security challenges. To ensure rapid assistance to the deportees, required resources were immediately borrowed from on-going WFP programmes while waiting for the CERF contribution to be confirmed, and food was purchased and made available in the western region. Once the food procured with CERF funds arrived in the western region, it was used to replace food borrowed from WFP's regular programmes.

As the deportation of families decreased during the second half of 2007, the balance of the CERF contribution was re-programmed under drought response through Food-for-Work projects. Through this intervention, the WFP Herat Area Office provided 59,684 beneficiaries with food assistance in Ghor Province.

WFP monitored the general food distributions and food-for-work activities on a monthly basis during distributions to the deportees. The monitoring took place in collaboration with community members,

village level food distribution committees, the Department of Refugees and Returnees (DoRR), the Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (RRD), and implementing partners.

#### **WHO**

WHO routine and emergency response programmes, plus humanitarian NGOs and Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), provided strong back-up for the CERF project. Some of the health services were not included in CERF projects; the resources of WHO's TB and Malaria control and also immunization programs were used and effectively filled the respective gaps (e.g. provision of case management and prophylaxis for TB, Malaria and so on for deportees and returnees).

Projects such as water, sanitation, food and nutrition had mutual positive impacts in conjunction with the CERF-funded health project for deportees. Communication between the capital and western provinces was strengthened by implementation of the CERF project.

The project implementation has been monitored and evaluated by WHO and the MoPH.

#### **UNICEF**

Government involvement from the beginning proved to be very efficient and useful. It enabled the quick implementation of rapid response and resettlement of families to their places of origin.

As a result of good coordination between the government and the UN, the GoA made the decision to allocate land to deportee families, allowing UN agencies to effectively channel the funds and reduce the risk of their return to Iran.

Bilateral dialogue between Afghanistan and Iran, and a strong reaction from the GoA, resulted in a two-month break in the deportation of Afghan migrants, allowing the Government and international community to address the issue properly and make the necessary preparations for the number of families arriving.

Security in some regions is fragile and transportation of humanitarian assistance to the affected population is an issue. UN convoys are potential soft targets. Government escort in certain areas and use of public transport proved to be quite effective in delivering the humanitarian assistance.

#### **IOM**

IOM's CERF-funded activities strengthened IOM's working relationship with government ministries and agencies tasked to provide social protection to Afghan IDPs and returnees.

Due to insecurity in Nimroz and Farah Provinces, IOM was forced to slow down its relief activities significantly and had to bring them to a halt in specific districts. The verification of legal land tenancy also delayed the distribution of shelter construction material. At the request of IOM, CERF granted a no-cost extension through January 21, 2008, allowing IOM to complete its originally planned activities.

### **III. Implementation and Results**

#### **Rapid Response projects**

"Decision-making process on endorsing the appeals by CERF was less bureaucratic and easier. CERF funding had enabled the UNCT and the GoA to take prompt action in responding to the humanitarian situation. Prompt contribution of CERF and the interventions implemented by health sector prevented many deaths, morbidity and disability due to communicable diseases and malnutrition." [WFP]

"CERF proved crucial to allow IOM to establish a rapid response mechanism to address relief needs as a result of the complex emergency brought about by the deportation of vulnerable Afghan families from Iran". [IOM]

"CERF is supporting life saving humanitarian interventions. Putting any development activities under CERF project will not be funded. In addition to that, such proposals will be unnecessary spending of time for the appealing agencies and also for the CERF Secretariat". [WHO]

### **IV. Lessons learned**

- National humanitarian efforts should be always supported by the international humanitarian organizations. Even the late arrival of life saving humanitarian goods can be used for the new evolving disasters.

- Coordination of the UN Humanitarian Country Team, led by Humanitarian Affairs Unit, was a good experience to cope jointly with the magnitude of humanitarian work in Afghanistan.
- **Co-ordination among agencies provided substantial cross-sector benefits:** "Projects such as water, sanitation, food and nutrition had mutual positive impacts with CERF-funded health project for deportees." (WHO)
- **Importance of security situation cannot be underestimated:** "The lead-time for supplying food to, and within, Afghanistan is very long due to both logistical and security challenges. To ensure rapid assistance to the deportees, required resources were immediately borrowed from on-going WFP programmes while waiting for the CERF contribution to be confirmed." (WFP)
- **Substantive government support is essential, both in providing time to react and some security assurances. Agencies said CERF enabled this relationship, or strengthened their relationship with the government:** "Close collaboration between UN Agencies, Government and other stakeholders has helped to increase the capacity of the concerned government departments" (WFP); "CERF-funded activities strengthened IOM's working relationship with government ministries and agencies tasked to provide social protection to Afghan Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees" (IOM); "As a result of good coordination between the government and the UN, the GoA made the decision to allocate land to the deportee families, allowing UN Agencies to channel the funds effectively and to reduce the risk of their return to Iran." (UNICEF)

## V. Results

Sector/ Cluster	CERF projects per sector	Amount disbursed	Number of Beneficiaries	Implementing Partners	Expected Results	Actual results and improvements for the target beneficiaries
<b>WFP (07-WFP-037)</b>						
<b>Food Assistance</b>	Emergency response for Afghan Deportees under General Food Distribution	<b>1,075,552</b>	13,878	Department of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR)	To provide free food for deportees to cover their immediate needs in order to reduce poverty.	195 mt mixed food commodities was provided to 13,878 beneficiaries under general food distribution to cover their immediate food needs.
<b>Food Assistance</b>	Food for Work for Afghan Deportees		13,512	Community Development Council (CDC) in coordination with Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)	Contribution in provision of job opportunities and relieving short-term hunger for the vulnerable deportee families in the target areas.  Rehabilitation of 75 km of irrigation canals and 5 Kariz in order to provide sufficient irrigation water for cultivation and livestock purposes.  Rehabilitation of 5.8 km of secondary roads in order to provide access to the market and health centres.	271 mt mixed food commodities was provided under Food for Work projects in three districts of Farah province, namely Farah city, Shib Koh and Lash wa Juwain for 13,512 beneficiaries.  75k m of irrigation canals, 5 Kariz and 5.8 km of secondary roads were rehabilitated in the above targeted areas.
<b>Food Assistance</b>	Drought response under Food for Work project/winter food pre-positioning		59,682	Community Development Council (CDC) in coordination with Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DRRD)	Contribution in provision of job opportunities and relieving short-term hunger from the drought.  Rehabilitation of 72 km of irrigation canals in order to provide sufficient irrigation water for cultivation purposes.  Rehabilitation of 730 km of secondary roads in order to provide access to the market and health centres.	1,492 mt foods were provided under drought response through Food for Work activities.  72 km of irrigation canals and 730 km secondary roads were rehabilitated.
<b>IOM (07-IOM-009)</b>						
<b>Non-food items (NFIs)</b>	07-IOM-009 Support for Afghan deportees from Iran	<b>2,840,143</b>	38,400	Inslama Wala – Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) and Voluntary Association for Rehabilitation of Afghanistan (VARA)	IOM's relief activities targeted three specific groups of needs: a) shelter, b) non-food items and c) secondary transport assistance.	Beneficiaries were transported to their points of origin.  Beneficiaries were provided with NFIs.  Shelter was provided (both permanent and emergency).  Thus living conditions were improved and beneficiaries were provided maximum opportunity to reintegrate.

Sector/ Cluster	CERF projects per sector	Amount disbursed	Number of Beneficiaries	Implementing Partners	Expected Results	Actual results and improvements for the target beneficiaries
<b>UNICEF (07-CEF-043)</b>						
<b>Water and sanitation</b>	Installation of 70 water points in the community in Farah and Nemroz Provinces	<b>762,803</b>	<i>14,000 people</i>	MoRRD	Increased access to safe water for returnees in their places of origin.	14,000 returnees and people from the localities provided with safe water in their villages.
<b>Water and sanitation</b>	Water tankering in Nemroz Province		<i>3,6000 people</i>	MoRRD	Assist returnees in their resettlement and access to safe water.	Returnees and the surrounding communities provided with safe water in Nemroz Province.
<b>Water and sanitation</b>	Procurement of Non-food supplies for 5,000 families (5000 family kits, 10,000 tarpaulin sheets, 15,000 jackets, 5,000 buckets)		<i>5,000 families (approx 35,000 people)</i>	ANDMA	5,000 families assisted with non-food supplies (cooking utensils, hygiene supplies).	5,000 families provided with non-food supplies and assisted in their resettlement to their places of origin.
<b>Water and sanitation</b>	Procurement of 30,000 collapsible water jerrycans		<i>Part of NFI package for 5,000 families</i>	ANDMA	Assist in collection and storage of water and decrease water-borne diseases among returnees.	Jerry-cans provided to returnees and assisted in water collection and storage.
<b>Education</b>	Procurement of 210 School tents		<i>8,400 students</i>	MoE	Provide learning spaces to children and resume normal education.	8,400 returnee and local community children provided with learning spaces and access to education.
	Transport, handling and staff travel cost			MoE, MoPH, ANDMA and UNICEF staff		
<b>Cross-sectoral</b>	Brochures with messages on health, Education, CP, Water and Sanitation for transit centres		<i>10,000 families</i>	ANDMA	Provide key survival messages to families.	10,000 families provided with key survival message on child health, education, protection as well as maternal health.
<b>Health</b>	Drugs and medical equipment		<i>140,000 people</i>	MoPH	Decrease child mortality and morbidity.	Drugs and medical equipment distributed to provincial health departments with the focus on drought affected and returnee concentrated areas. Contributed towards reducing child survival.
<b>Nutrition</b>	Procurement of nutrition supplies for children and breast-feeding mothers		<i>3,000 children with severe malnutrition and 5000 breast-feeding mothers</i>	MoPH	Prevent deterioration of nutrition status among children under the ages of five and supplementation of breast-feeding mothers.	Over 4,000 children received nutrition supplies and over 5,000 mothers received micronutrient supplementation.
<b>Security</b>	Purchase, delivery and fitting out of 2 B6 Armoured Land Cruiser Vehicles			UNICEF staff in Kandahar	Procure, deploy and operate 2 B6 armoured modified Land-Cruiser vehicles to allow UNICEF access to medium and high risk areas in the south.	Carried out road missions in medium, high and extreme risk districts to respond to humanitarian emergencies and to ensure programme delivery.
	Indirect support costs (7%)					

**WHO (07-WHO-029)**

<p><b>Health</b></p>		<p><b>430,000</b></p>	<p>&gt;60,000</p>	<p>MoPH, NGOs and UNHCR.</p>	<p>Returnees and deportees from Iran and the host communities have increased access to basic health services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life-saving essential emergency health supplies have been pre-positioned at health facility level for 10,000 returning families and deportees from Iran.</li> <li>• 4 well equipped ambulances have been procured and delivered to MoPH to be used by the health teams working on the border with Iran. This donation will make positive changes in health services and improve the referral system especially for the critically ill patients.</li> <li>• Orientation/training in emergency response to the field health staff.</li> <li>• Disease surveillance and early warning system has been strengthened.</li> <li>• 17,200 Long lasting insecticide impregnated bed-nets have procured and distributed to the returnees and deportees for prevention of vector-borne diseases of malaria and leishmaniasis.</li> <li>• Provision of more than 3000 health hygiene and nutrition education materials.</li> <li>• Distribution of health related messages, on the prevention of communicable disease and malnutrition. Health staff/response teams supported with incentives to implement project activities.</li> </ul>
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## VI. CERF IN ACTION: Success stories

The deportees arrived at the border without assets and no resources to feed themselves and their family members. For several years they had lived in Iran, with ready access to food, education, health facilities and potable drinking water. Their sudden deportation placed enormous stress on the families and, literally overnight, eliminated their livelihoods.

CERF assistance not only saved lives but also gave the vulnerable families hope for the future, helping them to begin to reintegrate into Afghanistan. In addition, the assistance helped protect family members and gave heads of household an opportunity to look for suitable jobs.

### WFP

WFP started Food-for-Work projects in three districts of Farah province, namely Farah City, Shib Koh and Lash wa Juwain. These projects engaged 2,252 participants and covered 13,512 deportee beneficiaries. Among assets created through the Food-for-Work projects were: 75 km of irrigation canals; 5 Kariz and 5.8 km of secondary roads.



### WHO

The harsh winter conditions under which they entered Afghanistan had tragic consequences for many of the refugees. Many lost limbs or suffered severe injuries due to frostbite; others, who could not reach medical facilities because of the weather, often died. CERF medical supplies may have saved the lives of many who made it; like the man shown at right. The strengthening of the medical system will help prevent such occurrences in the future.



### UNICEF

UNICEF provided critical assistance that helped returnees reintegrate into local communities. 14,000 returnees and local community members were provided with safe water in their villages; 5,000 families were provided with non-food supplies and assisted in their resettlement to their places of origin; and 8,400 children received learning spaces and access to education. Additionally, UNICEF drugs and medical equipment assisted other programs, while nutritional supplements contributed towards improving child survival for thousands of beneficiaries.

### IOM

Marzia Mohammadi, mother of twins, crossed the border at Islam Qala and travelled to Hirat under harsh conditions. At the IOM Herat distribution centre, she and her husband received a household package, clothing and secondary transportation to Kabul. Days after arriving in Kabul, Ms. Mohammadi brought her babies to the IOM Kabul health facility. "I did not know a doctor in Kabul so I came to IOM for help," she said. After a medical check up, the IOM doctor told Marzia that her babies were affected by the long journey from Iran, but that the children were not ill or in need of specific medical assistance.



IOM's Dr. Assir examines Ms. Mohammadi's children at the IOM health facility

## **List of Acronyms**

**AGE-** Anti Government Elements

**ARCS-**Afghan Red Crescent Society

**CDCs-** Community Development Councils

**CERF-** Central Emergency Response Fund

**DoRR -** Department of Repatriation and Refugees

**DRRD-**Department of Rehabilitation and Rural Development

**DSRSG-** Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General

**GoA-** Government of Afghanistan

**HC-** Humanitarian Coordinator

**IDP-** Internally Displaced Persons

**IOM-** The International Organization for Migration

**MoPH-** Ministry of Public Health

**NFI-** Non-food items

**PRRO -**Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation

**RC-** Resident Coordinator

**RRD -**Rural Rehabilitation and Development Office

**UNAMA-** United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

**UNCT-** United Nations Country Team

**UNHCR -**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**UNICEF-** United Nations Children's Fund

**WFP-** World Food Programme

**WHO-** World Health Organization