

Joint Programme for the Area Based Approach to Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI) in Northern and Southern Regions

Quarterly Report

PARTICIPATING UN ORGANIZATIONS (PUNOS)	Northern Region: ☑ UN Habitat, ☑IOM, ☑UN Women, ☑UNHCR, ☑UNCTAD, ☑ILO, ☑UNESCO, ☑UNDP, ☑UNODC, ☑UNFPA, ☑UNOPS and ☑FAO Southern Region: ☑ UN Habitat, ☑IOM, ☑UN Women, ☑UNHCR, ☑UNESCO, ☑UNDP, ☑UNODC, ☑UNFPA, ☑UNCTAD and ☑FAO	PROGRAMME NUMBER	JP-RE
PROGRAMME START DATE	1-January-2022	PROGRAMME END DATE	31-December-2023
REPORTING QUARTER & YEAR	Quarter 2-Year 1	REPORT SUBMISSION DATE	15-August-2022

CONTRIBUTION TO STFA PRIORITY AREAS					
STFA PRIORITY AREAS	TOTAL ALLOCATION IN USD				
☑ Provision of Essential Services	53,027,350				
☑ Community Based Livelihoods & Local Economic Activities	31,639,543				
☑ Protecting Farm Based Livelihood from Natural Disasters	5,926,985				
☑ Community Resilience and Social Cohesion	7,135,299				

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE	
REGIONS COVERED	PROVINCES COVERED
□Central	□Kabul □Logar, □Wardak, □Parwan, □Kapisa, □Panjshir
☐Central Highlands	□Bamyan, □Daikundi, □ Ghor
⊠Southern	⊠Kandahar, ⊠Hilmand, ⊠Nimroz, ⊠Zabul, ⊠Uruzgan
□Eastern	□Nangarhar, □Laghman, □Noristan, □ Kunar
□Western	□Herat, □Farah, □Badghis, □
⊠Northern	☑ Jawzjan, ☑Sar-e-Pul, ☑Samangan, ☑Balkh, ☑ Faryab
□North-eastern	□Kunduz, □Takhar, □Badakhshan, □Baghlan
☐South-eastern	□Paktia, □Paktika, □Khost, □ Ghazni

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UN Transitional Engagement Framework (TEF), launched in January 2022, represents the common basis for the United Nations and partners to deliver a coordinated and effective crisis response after the powershift in August 2021. The ABADEI Strategy is the foundation of this programme and the main framework for the UN and partners to provide immediate assistance across the country under the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan. It offers an integrated approach to programming for community resilience based on four key priority areas: 1) Provision of essential services; 2) Community livelihoods and local economic activities; 3) Protection of farm-based livelihoods from natural disasters; 4) Community resilience and social cohesion. The ABADEI Strategy was the basis for the Joint Programme Initiation Plan (PIP) for the Northern and Southern regions that was prepared to enable PUNOs to deliver rapid assistance on the ground with critical funding provided by donors through the STFA in the last quarter of 2021. The Joint PIP transitioned into two regional joint programmes for the Northern and Southern regions being implemented by 12 PUNOs, upon signature of the joint programme documents in May 2022. The progress of the second quarter is therefore reported against the Joint Programme indicators.

The second quarterly progress report covers the period 1 April to 30 June 2022 and gives a snapshot of achievements, risks and challenges and also provides cumulative progress of 2022¹. Overall, PUNOs have reported achievements across all four output areas. However, the progress made under output 3 and 4 are still at the preliminary stage. The major achievements in this quarter are on issues related to basic health services; psychosocial counselling on mental health and drug prevention issues and employment, income generation and economic activities.

The key achievements of this quarter in the Northern and Southern regions include:

- 89,330 people² have benefitted from health services and 13,203 people³ (38 percent female) from drug prevention and treatment services.
- 89,250 people⁴ (36 percent female) benefitted from Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT); 3,280⁵ benefitted from Cash for Work (CfW) schemes; 1,981 (31 percent female)⁶ benefitted from newly created income generation opportunities and 1,696 MSMEs⁷ (64 percent female headed) benefitted from financial capital support, training and assets.
- 14,920 (50 percent female) farmers⁸ benefitted from training and assets for improved climatesmart agriculture.
- 111,551 people⁹ were sensitized on issues related to human rights, social cohesion and conflict prevention.

Ensuring women's participation continues to be a challenge and PUNOs are jointly collaborating to create more space for women to take part in the programme activities. PUNOs have also faced challenges because of obstruction from local government authorities and their requirements to seek approval for some of the activities that caused some delays in programme implementation.

¹ Please refer Annex 1 for cumulative progress

² 83,951 from Northern and 5,379 from Southern regions

³ 7,001 from Northern and 6,202 from Southern regions

⁴ 38,995 people from Northern and 50,255 people from Southern regions

⁵ 200 people from Northern and 3,080 people from Southern regions

⁶ All from Southern region

⁷ 1,264 from Northern and 432 from Southern regions

⁸ All from Southern region

⁹ All from Southern region

PART 1. PROGRESS AGAINST INTENDED RESULTS

The Joint Programme Initiation Plan (PIP), approved in December 2021 was implemented by 11 Participating UN Organisations (PUNOs) in the Northern and Southern regions of Afghanistan and transitioned into two regional joint programmes for the Northern and Southern regions being implemented by 12 PUNOs¹0, upon signature of the joint programme documents in May 2022. This report provides a progress update from 1 April to 30 June 2022 and gives a snapshot of cumulative progress by end of the second quarter of implementation. The report is consolidated based on updates from 11 PUNOs (ILO, IOM, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNODC, UNOPS and UN Women), noting that FAO will start implementation in the third quarter. Below is a summary of the PUNOs by output and regions as per the Joint Programs for Southern and Northern regions.

PUNO	Output 1		Output 2		Output 3		Output 4	
	Northern	Southern	Northern	Southern	Northern	Southern	Northern	Southern
FAO	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
ILO	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
IOM	Yes							
UN Habitat	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
UN Women	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
UNCTAD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
UNDP	Yes							
UNESCO	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
UNFPA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
UNODC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
UNOPS	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
UNHCR	Yes							
# of PUNOs	11	10	11	8	7	7	6	7

Table 1: Number of PUNOs by output and regions as per the Joint Programs.

Progress against the four outputs

This section provides an overview of the progress against each of the four output areas:

OUTPUT 1 - essential services and community infrastructure — including for health, agriculture, education and energy supply - are functional, sustained and expanded to meet different needs of women and men.

¹⁰ FAO signed the Joint Programme Documents for Northern and Southern Regions on 20 May 2022 and is yet to start implementation. FAO was not a part of the joint PIP.

Indicators:

- Number of people that have benefited from UN-supported essential services and/or new/rehabilitated infrastructure, disaggregated by type of service and/or infrastructure, and sex.
- Number of functional, UN supported, facilities providing basic health assistance (including basic health assistance services for women and girls).
- Number of COVID-kits distributed to health centres/clinics.
- Number of Km of rehabilitated and/or maintained rural roads and/or # irrigation systems
- Number of individuals, including adolescent girls and women, who benefit from educational services (such as basic general literacy and vocational education programmes) (at least 50% female).
- Percentage of target beneficiaries satisfied with the quality of UN-supported services, disaggregated by type of service and sex.

Under this output, PUNOs have provided support to vulnerable communities in the Northern and Southern regions to have access to essential services (health, psychosocial support and counselling for drug prevention).

NORTHERN REGION

This output was implemented by eight PUNOs (ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR and UNODC) during this quarter. *In total, 83,951 people have benefitted from basic services and 7,001 people (17 percent female) from drug prevention and treatment services.* Compared to the previous quarter, the numbers have increased from 75,151 to 83,951 people and 497 to 7,001 people respectively, showing increasing trend in the number of people beneficiaries through the joint programme.

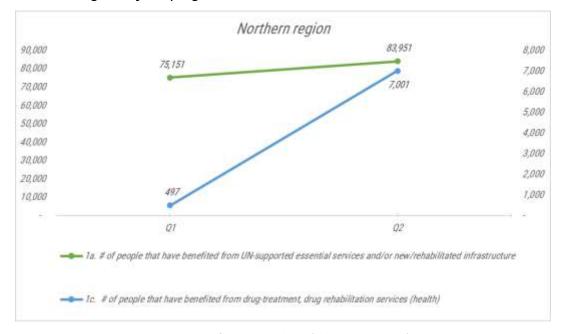


Figure 1. Comparison of progress in Q1 and Q2, Output 1, Northern Region

Basic Health Services: PUNOs have supported enabling capacity of community-based health services such as Family Health Houses (FHHs) to provide basic health services to vulnerable communities. As a result, **82,120 people**¹¹ (76 percent female) in Faryab benefitted from basic health services. The main services provided through FHHs were on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH). With the purpose of creating a pool of trained human resource, 36 unemployed midwives from Balkh, Samangan and Faryab provinces (selected in the first quarter in close coordination with the Province Health Departments-PHDs and IPs) are receiving two-month mandatory midwifery training¹² until early July. This would help

A safe delivery assisted by the midwife in one of the FHHs in Faryab supported by STFA in May 2022



sustain local capacities as well as provide essential maternal and reproductive health services in their own communities. The basic health services will be extended by establishing 29 new FHHs in the Northern region, However, this effort was obstructed by regulatory requirements of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), approval was granted in late June to continue this work. PUNOs have also provided integrated psychosocial and mental health services to **1,831 individuals** in Samangan, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul and Balkh provinces. It helped to reach out the people in those locations with high number of returnees and overcome emotional or social problems that affected their well-being. Such support also created space for interaction among beneficiaries that contributed to enhance trust and relationships.

Similarly, **7,001 individuals** with drug use disorders and their children/families benefitted from psychosocial support/counselling sessions¹³, social support¹⁴ and drug use harm reduction services including basic health care¹⁵. With the purpose of providing better services, 1,750 hygiene kits (soap, shampoo, towel, and hygiene pads for female drug users) were distributed to homeless drug users in Balkh province, and the voluntary counselling and testing centre in Balkh province was supplied with 5,500 HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis diagnostic kits. To continue providing better services to the targeted communities and sustain local capacities for drug prevention and harm reduction, 113 youth¹⁶ (37 percent female) were trained on evidence-based drug use prevention approaches and early identification of drug use problems, empowered

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¹¹ Out of the 82,120 beneficiaries 3,661 received service on antenatal consultation (ANC), 483 received Couple Year of Protection (CYP), 1,040 deliveries were conducted by skilled birth attendants, 2,937 received postnatal services, 25,296 under 5 sick children received treatment and 48,703 community people attended health education sessions.

¹²The training includes topics on Basic Emergency Obstetric Care (BEMONC), Integrated Management of Neonatal & Childhood Illness (IMNCI), Family Planning, Post-Abortion Care, Health Management Information System (HMIS) Health Facility Management at PHC level, and Rational Use of Drugs.

¹³ Individual, group and families counselling sessions

¹⁴ Social support includes food and refreshment

¹⁵ wound and abscess management

¹⁶ 18 – 35 years

on coping and protective measures through life skills and also engaged in drug use prevention activities at the community level. A total 25 female medical doctors¹⁷ were trained on gender responsive health and drug use harm reduction services focusing on women who use drugs¹⁸ and 35 NGOs, service providers and CSOs working in Balkh province were trained on evidence-based drug use harm reduction, outreach services to homeless drug users and voluntary counselling and testing services for HIV, Hepatitis and STIs. Likewise, 1,377 families (33 percent female headed) were sensitised on drug prevention¹⁹ as a part of family skills program.

Preliminary work: Some PUNOs continued process level work in preparation for implementation of programme activities. This includes recruitment of staff, midwives and counsellor; construction and refurbishment of FHHs and procurement of medical equipment; community Action Plan (CAP) assessment and district profiling; infrastructure work to provide safe drinking water; project planning, field survey and project design of 14 sub-projects to provide basic services; preparation of pre-vocational skills modules on health, agriculture and entrepreneurship; identification and selection of students to enrol in the Community Midwifery Education (CME) Programme; assessments on data needs and gaps in general education, higher education, and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), preparation of pre-vocational training skills modules on health, agriculture and entrepreneurship and a water supply infrastructure intervention is ongoing in Balkh province to improve access to drinking water to 1,260 people (50 percent female).

SOUTHERN REGION

Eight PUNOs (IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNODC and UN Women) implemented this output during this quarter. *In total, 5,379 people benefitted from health services and 6,202 people (61 percent female) from drug prevention and treatment services.* Compared to the previous quarter, the numbers have increased from 1,366 to 5,379 people and 1,045 to 6,202 people respectively, showing increasing trend in the number of beneficiaries through the joint programme.

¹⁷ Female doctors at the community level who are engaged with women drug users.

¹⁸ Focusing on effects of drugs during pregnancy and lactation and prevention of HIV and hepatitis transmission from mother to child and gender-based violence.

¹⁹ through dissemination of Information Education and Communications materials on drug prevention.

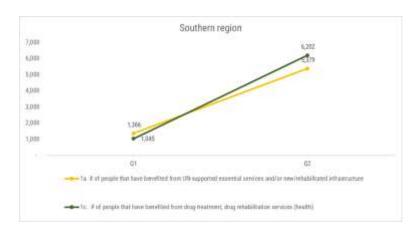


Figure 2. Comparison of progress in Q1 and Q2, Output 1, Southern Region

Basic Health Services: PUNOs have provided integrated psychosocial and mental health services to **5,379 people of concern²⁰** (34 percent female) through psychosocial sessions in Kandahar, Hilmand, Nimroz, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces. Such support also created space for interaction among beneficiaries that contributed to enhance trust and relationships.

Similarly, **6,202 individuals** (61 percent female) with drug use disorders and their children/families benefitted from psychosocial support/counselling sessions²¹, social support²² and harm reduction services, including basic health care²³. In order to provide better service to the drug users, a total of 5,500 HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis diagnostic kits have been supplied to voluntary counselling and testing centre in Kandahar province, and a total of 1,750 hygiene kits consisted of soap, shampoo, towel, and hygiene pads for female drug users have been procured and distributed among homeless drug users in Kandahar provinces. To continue providing better services to the targeted communities and sustain local capacities for drug prevention and harm reduction, 115 youth²⁴ (50 percent female) were trained on evidence-based drug use prevention approaches and early identification of drug use problems, empowered on coping and protective measures through life skills and also engaged in drug use prevention activities at the community level. Also, 25 female medical doctors²⁵ were trained on gender responsive health and drug use harm reduction services focusing on women who use drugs²⁶ and 40 NGOs, service providers and CSOs were trained on evidence-based drug use harm reduction, outreach services to homeless drug users and voluntary counselling and testing services for HIV,

²⁰ Girls and boys, women, and men, from internally displaced persons, internally displaced returnees, Afghan refugee returnees, spontaneous Afghan refugee returnees, Afghan deportees, and vulnerable members of the host community.

²¹ Individual, group and family counselling sessions

²² Social support includes food and refreshment

²³ wound and abscess management

²⁴ Between 18 to 35 years

²⁵ Female doctors at the community level who are engaged with women drug users.

²⁶ Focusing on effects of drugs during pregnancy and lactation and prevention of HIV and hepatitis transmission from mother to child and gender-based violence.

Hepatitis and STIs. Likewise, 1,710 families (64 percent female headed) were sensitised on drug prevention as a part of family skills programme.

Access to electricity is improving following the installation of solar systems across 12 health centres²⁷ (7.2 KW power capacity) that predominantly experienced electricity challenges.

The construction of 155 culverts is improving mobility for community people in Kandahar, Hilmand, Nimroz, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces. Furthermore, the drilling of bore-wells including construction of water reservoirs and installation of solar energy system is 40 percent completed in Uruzgan and Zabul provinces (five units in each province). Once completed, this additional water supply is anticipated to improve access to shared community resources by the returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the host communities.

Preliminary work: Preliminary work also continued with the assessment and selection of the 29 sites for the construction of FHHs in coordination with the Implementing Partner (IP)²⁸. However, the PUNOs involved in establishment of FHHs faced a similar issue of obstruction from the local government authorities as they faced in Northern region. While the site selection is completed, the designing of the FFHs is ongoing with construction of the 29 FHHs for Hilmand province stalled due to regulatory issues with the MoPH. The urgent request by MoPH to pause implementation caused delays in constructing new FHHs. The MoPH granted authorisation to continue this work in late June. Other ongoing preliminary work on basic health services provision includes establishment of the CME schools and recruitment of the CME staff for Hilmand and Nimroz provinces; selection of unemployed midwives and trainers for the mandatory in-services training programme; procurement of 500 Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) for 29 FHHs with first batch expected to arrive in Kabul in the next quarter. The designing of 11²⁹ sub-projects expected to benefit 293,485 community members is ongoing and four projects are already awarded to contractors for implementation.

OUTPUT 2 — livelihoods, businesses and local economy are able to recover, more sustainable and more resilient to instability.

Indicators:

²⁷ The current Basic Health Centres (BHCs) and Comprehensive Health Centres (CHCs) in the Southern Region are often the worst-affected by the constant power shortage.

²⁸ Rehabilitation and Aid Network (BARAN)

²⁹ Two solar energy projects to provide sustainable solar power to a BHC and a maternity clinic; construction of eight retaining walls to prevent flooding and construction of three culverts to improve mobility.

- Number of people who benefited from unconditional cash transfers (UCT) (at least 80% women).
- Number of people who have benefited from newly created income-generation opportunities (disaggregated by sex, age and province).
- Number of people who have benefited from productive employment through cash for work (CfW) schemes (at least 30% women, 50% youth).
- No. of worker-days generated with UN-support.
- Percentage of people with disabilities (PWD) that have benefited from newly created income-generation opportunities.
- Percentage of newly employed people that have benefited from Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) measures.
- Number of MSMEs that benefit through financial capital support, training and/or other forms of asset support (disaggregated by women-led and men-led MSMEs).
- Proportion of beneficiaries who confirm sustained or improved livelihoods because of programme-supported activities (random sampling).

Under this output, PUNOs have provided support for revitalisation of local economic activities, including through interventions such as targeted cash-based support through unconditional and conditional cash transfers in the form of basic income – for households in high-poverty areas, with a focus on vulnerable segments of the population; cash for work (CfW) schemes; technical assistance to support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and women-led informal businesses.

NORTHERN REGION

This output is implemented by eight PUNOs (ILO, IOM, UNCTAD, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNOPS and UN Women) during this quarter. A total of 38,995 people (44 percent female) benefitted from Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT); 200 people benefitted from Cash for Work (CfW) schemes, 51,540 workers days were generated (32 percent female) and 1,264 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) (81 percent female headed) benefitted from financial capital support, training and assets.

UCT, CfW and support to MSMEs: During this quarter, 38,995 vulnerable people in Balkh



Women Collecting Hay in Aybak District (Kipinakarcha) (UNOPS/Constanza Malagamba)

province benefited from once-off UCT of up to 200 USD each. Similarly, 200 people benefitted from CfW schemes generating 51,540 workers day. These people were involved in various activities including solid waste management. The UCT and CfW schemes have contributed to fulfil the basic needs³⁰ of the vulnerable people and their households. With the purpose of promoting and sustaining local business, 1,264 MSMEs

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³⁰ including basis food needs

were supported through grants. This has helped survive the current crisis, resume operations and save jobs and livelihoods of employees.

Eighty MSMEs (25 percent female headed) were trained through four rounds of six-day-long capacity-building workshops in Balkh, Faryab and Jawzjan provinces during this quarter. While during the first quarter 106 MSMEs (79.24 percent female headed) were trained through five

rounds of six-day long capacitybuilding workshops in Balkh and Faryab provinces. The pre and post training evaluations show that these trainings were very useful to help them plan, promote and sustain their business.

Preliminary work: Preliminary work conducted in the period under review includes roll out of a nation-wide

"The training helped me learn the process of preparing a business plan, market survey, marketing techniques, comparative advantage of the production etc. among the competitors that are very useful to run any business. I learnt what I did not know earlier. The training helped me run and manage my business effectively than the past. I am interested in other part of SIYB training in the future too", said Zarghuna, one of the SIYB training participants from Faryab Province.

rapid needs assessment survey through which 3,140 women-led formal and informal businesses in Afghanistan along with 20 value chain key informants were interviewed. The needs assessments covered 732 businesses in Northern region. This assessment will be an important evidence base to provide an overview of the challenges that women in businesses have in the current situation and includes a set of recommendations for development actors³¹.

SOUTHERN REGION

Eight PUNOs (IOM, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNODC and UN Women) implemented the output during this quarter. A total of 50,255 (30 percent female) people benefitted from UCT; 1,981 people (31 percent female) benefitted from newly created income generation opportunities; 3,080 benefitted from CfW schemes, 11,189 workers days were generated and 432 MSMEs (16 percent female headed) benefitted from financial capital support, training and assets.



MSMEs workshop participants discussing ideas Improve Your Business (IYB) capacity building session in Kandahar Province.

UCT, CfW and support to MSMEs: During this quarter, **50,255 vulnerable people** in Kandahar and Zabul provinces benefitted from once-off UCTs of up to \$310 each. Similarly, **1,981 people** benefitted from income generation and food security support in Kandahar and Hilmand provinces. These include backyard poultry farming, establishment of egg collection centre, animal husbandry, cultivation of vegetable and saffron, improved vegetable seeds, fertilizers, toolkits³² to facilitate the cultivation and capacity building support.

³¹ It also applies to Southern region.

³² sprayer machine, with eyeglass, mask and gloves, plastic basket, shovel with handle, sickle, and weeding toolkit.

The vegetable production will contribute to household food security and saffron works as an alternative to poppy crop. PUNOs created employment opportunities also through CfW that benefited **3,080 workers** resulting in **11,189 worker-days**. The workers were involved in maintenance of green spaces alongside the roads, preparing beds flowers and plants, cleaning and maintenance of park and Mosque and cleaning of drainage canal. A total **432 MSMEs** (50 percent female headed) benefitted from financial capital support, trainings and assets. Out of 432 MSMEs, 132 were trained through six rounds of six-day-long capacity-building workshops in Kandahar, Hilmand and Nimroz provinces during this quarter. The pre and post training evaluations show that these trainings were very useful to help them plan, promote and sustain their business. Similarly 51 micro-business persons in Kandahar were trained on business and financial management process.

Preliminary work: Some of the preliminary work during this quarter include field assessments and project design for establishment of solar systems and selection of local businesses to provide asset support.

OUTPUT 3 — communities have improved infrastructure, access to water and preparedness mechanisms to protect farm-based livelihoods and cope with climate and environment shocks and natural disaster.

Indicators:

- Number of districts with functional early warning systems and other preparedness mechanisms for climate shocks and natural disasters.
- Number of people who acquired knowledge and skills on disaster preparedness and climate-resilient livelihoods (at least 30% women).
- Number of farmers who benefited from training and assets for improved, climate-smart, agriculture (at least 30% women).
- Number of people that benefit from rehabilitated and/or newly constructed disaster-resilient community infrastructure and nature-based solutions.
- Hectares of land restored, regenerated to absorb environmental stress and climate shocks.

Under this output, PUNOs supported preparatory activities such as consultative meetings with four CDCs to identify sub-projects; survey, design, inputs cost estimation and construction of seven water structures.

NORTHERN REGION

This output is implemented by five PUNOs (IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, and UNHCR). There is no progress to report under this output during this quarter.

SOUTHERN REGION

This output is implemented by four PUNOs (IOM, UNDP, UNHCR and UNODC) during this quarter. A total of 14,920 (50 percent female) farmers benefitted from training as well as assets for improved climate-smart agriculture.

OUTPUT 4 – social cohesion, respect for human rights – including, in particular, the rights of women and girls- and access to justice are progressively strengthened at local level – contributing to greater community resilience.

Indicators:

- Number of CBOs/CSOs with improved capacity for participatory and inclusive community planning (at least 20% women-led).
- Number of people with better awareness about human rights, social cohesion and conflict prevention (at least 50% women).
- Number of districts with counselling and legal aid services.
- Proportion of target beneficiaries that perceive improved access to legal aid at local level (sample-based).
- Proportion of people in target areas who perceive that security situation has improved, disaggregated by sex (random sampling).
- Proportion of women in target areas that perceive benefits from measures addressing gender-based discrimination and GBV (including preventive measures).

Under this output, PUNOs have contributed to reinforce social cohesion and reconciliation with the involvement of the communities and other local stakeholders using a community needs-based approach and working with civil society organisations.

NORTHERN REGION

This output is implemented by six PUNOs (IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNHCR and UN Women) during this quarter. *Three Civil Society Organisations have improved capacity for participatory and inclusive community planning.*

Participatory and Inclusive Community Planning: **Six Community Action Plans (CAPs)** were developed through community-driven participatory process, with accountability to affected populations at its core, shaping community-level quick impact projects and a range of income generation and livelihood opportunities that are responsive to community needs and community cohesion. During this process 461 community members, elders and local stakeholders (46 percent female) actively participated in identifying and prioritising community needs.

PUNOs provided support to Gozar Assemblies (GAs)³³ to develop **Community Recovery and Resilience Plans**. As a result GAs held 20 events including community meetings to inform



Community Gathering to Prioritize Gozar Challenges and to Propose Solutions, Mazar-e-Sharif City

communities about their roles in developing local recovery and resilience plans; establishment of subcommittees (youth, UDPs, PWDs, vendors, female headed households and women committee), prioritisation and sub-projects proposed through public voting. A total 264 people (33 percent female) directly participated in community workshops, meetings and trainings and 4,200 people in two GAs benefitted from Community Recovery and Resilience Plans.

A **two-month trans-generational peacebuilding mentorship** programme targeting 20 individuals (10 youth and 10 peacebuilding practitioners) is ongoing in five provinces.

Preliminary Work: Two analytical briefs were prepared examining the gender implications of the media sector and the legal sector. These papers aim to provide a comprehensive gender sensitive analysis with action-oriented recommendations for UN and development actors³⁴.

SOUTHERN REGION

This output is implemented by eight PUNOs (IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNODC and UN Women) during this quarter. Five CSOs have improved capacity for participatory and inclusive community planning and 111,551 people were sensitised on human rights, social cohesion and conflict prevention.

Participatory and Inclusive Community Planning: **Three Community Action Plans (CAPs)** were developed through community-driven participatory process, with accountability to affected populations at its core, shaping community-level quick impact projects and a range of income generation and livelihood opportunities that are responsive to community needs and community cohesion.

 $^{^{\}rm 33}$ Gozar 15 of District 10 and Gozar 11 of District 5

³⁴ This is also applicable to Southern region.

Two GAs³⁵ were selected to support the local communities in developing **Community Recovery**



Community Development Council Meeting with IDPs in PD7, GA#5, Kandahar City

and Resilience Plans. The GAs meetings inform held to communities about their roles in developing local recovery resilience plans; established subcommittee (youth, IDPs, PWDs, vendors, female headed households committee), and women prioritised proposed sub-projects through public voting. A total 157 people (33 percent female) directly community participated in workshops, meetings and trainings and 12,250 people in two GAs benefitted from Community Recovery and Resilience Plans.

Facilitated a two-month trans-generational peacebuilding mentorship programme to 10 youth and 10 peacebuilding practitioners in five provinces.

Addressing GBV and Promoting Social Cohesion: With the purpose of engaging women in different activities and prevent GBV, PUNOs provided support to 235 women headed households in Hilmand and Kandahar provinces for backyard poultry farming³⁶. Similarly **378 households** mostly women headed, received animal husbandry support. It includes provision of fodder seeds, cotton oil cake, wheat bran, deworming and artificial insemination.

Awareness raising and sensitization: **PUNOs sensitised 111,551 people** (11 percent female) in Kandahar, Nimroz and Zabul provinces on the risk of explosive ordnance, women's rights, civil documentation and availability of essential services, legal counselling that helped to learn the process of obtaining civil documentations such as national IDs, marriage certificates, and passports. Participants in these sessions were returnees at border crossings or transit centres and community members in targeted villages in proximity of known explosive ordnance contamination.

CROSS PUNO COLLABORATION

During the reporting period, **UNCTAD** and **UNODC** have identified areas where they can complement each other and bring synergies in their interventions. For example, the learnings from MSMEs related work that were supported by UNODC in different regions including, Northern and Southern will be shared with UNCTAD so that they have better understanding on the issues related to trade, export management, food security, etc. that leads to informed and better programming.

³⁵ Gozar 4 in District 5 and Gozar 5 in District 7

³⁶ Support includes construction of chicken coop, distribution chicken pullets, capacity building training and other necessary equipment such as chicken pullets, cockerels, 7.5 MT concentrated feed, drinker, feeder, and poultry medicines to run the poultry farm.

- **UNFPA** is collaborating with **IOM** and **UNDP** to establish FHHs in the Northern and Southern regions. This tripartite collaboration will ensure the provision of Reproductive Health Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent (RMNCA) services to communities that have poor access to health services. Through this collaboration, each agency will support with its specific area of expertise and experiences and provide added value to the FHH project. IOM will lead the construction of 58 FHHs, UNDP will provide solar panels as a renewable energy source and UNFPA will support and develop the capacity of midwives for the provision of RMNCA services. This is another example of how PUNOs are working together to achieve integrated results and maximising the positive impacts.
- UNESCO developed concept notes in collaboration with UN Women, ILO, FAO and WFP
 covering areas such as promoting resilience among Afghan Women, alleviating poverty,
 community resilience and livelihoods etc. UNESCO has also been discussing possible
 collaborations with IOM, UN HABITAT and UNHCR, under the framework of documenting
 traditional construction techniques in earthquake-prone areas, in order to build back better
 based on locally available yet untapped community knowledge, skills, and practices.
- UNDP established coordination mechanism at regional levels with UNHCR, ILO, UN Habitat, UN Women, IOM, UNODC, and UNFPA. Through this mechanism, PUNOs arrange regional coordination meetings to share their planned and ongoing activities, lessons learnt that lead to avoid duplication and foster collaboration.
- UNODC and UNHCR, in collaboration with Afghanistan Women Chamber of Commerce
 and Industry, are working together to establish women bazar for women entrepreneurs in
 Kabul city. There is an ongoing discussion between UNODC and UNHCR to jointly provide
 awareness sessions on drug use prevention focusing on returnees and IDPs encashment
 sites.
- UN-Habitat and UN Women are working together to support the Rabia Balkhi women's
 market in Balkh Province to improve businesses opportunities for women, renovate market
 facilities and seek opportunities for marker expansion that would contribute to women's
 economic empowerment.
- **UNOPS** is actively engaged with UNICEF to identify qualified grantees to implement activities such as, livelihood support trainings to women, setting up a library for women and girls, awareness raising on rights of adolescent, health, nutrition, and psychological support services to GBV survivors under the grant.

PART 2. MONITORING & EVALUATION

During the reporting period, PUNOs' M&E activities have been focused on the following:

1. Field Assessments

Activities carried out during field assessments were mainly focused on site selection, assessing the needs of the local communities and feasibility of interventions. The field assessments also focused on conducting baseline surveys in order to inform evidence-based and realistic target setting, that have resulted in establishing robust M&E plans and improving the quality of interventions to a greater extent. For example, ILO prepared an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to mitigate environmental risks before and after the intervention, ensuring compliance with existing guidelines and guality of intervention.

2. Spot Checks and Monitoring Visits

As a part of the overall M&E system, PUNOs have been consistently monitoring their project activities. They are conducting regular monitoring visits to the field locations and spot checks to track progress, assure quality, identify gaps in implementation focusing on activities including, CfW, functionality of grievances redressal mechanism, capacity building workshops and construction work among others. For example, UNOPS is consistently monitoring and following up CfW activities in close collaboration with its Implementing Partner (IP) and Local Road User Committees (LRUCs). It has resulted in timely implementation of the activities without compromising on the quality of work.

3. Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM)/Post training Evaluation

To promote organizational learning and to make appropriate adjustments in future approaches and strategies, PUNOs have reported to have gauged the effectiveness of their interventions (services and cash distribution activities). For instance, IOM's PDM revealed that cash distribution activities helped creation of 2,392 new jobs and safeguarded 6,047 jobs of current employees who were under risk of being unemployed because of the current economic crisis. It could also retain 376 businesses. Similarly, UNFPA reported that they trained 36 unemployed midwives on midwifery skills. Based on the post training evaluation results, on average, the skills level of the participants increased from 44% to 95% that indicates substantive improvement while comparing with the pre-training evaluation. These examples have been recorded in the lessons learnt repositories for future planning.

4. Stakeholder Consultations

Overall, PUNOs have been actively engaged with relevant stakeholders, including beneficiaries over the course of implementation. IOM reported to have engaged in and supported the process of Community Action Plans (CAP) development through effective mobilisation of community members, elders and local stakeholders for inclusive planning process. Furthermore, UNFPA reported to have effectively conducted training on topics such as, GBV and psychosocial support to FHHs in Faryab Province. It was possible because of having inclusive consultation and coordination with the local communities in the target areas as well as relevant government structures from the initial stage of the programme. It not only helped in effective implementation but also generated a sense of trust and ownership among the local communities in the target areas.

5. Donor Field Visit

During the reporting period, two field missions took place with delegates from donor organisations. The first mission was in Kandahar Province in April 2022 comprising a team from the Government of Sweden and the Government of Finland. The second mission was in Balkh Province by the Government of Sweden in June 2022. UNDP/TFMU and relevant PUNOs joined the teams in both missions. These field missions were intended to monitor the progress of programme implementation and have a direct interface with beneficiaries funded through STFA. The delegates from both the mission acknowledged that the ground work being implemented through STFA has a positive implication for the vulnerable people in the target areas.

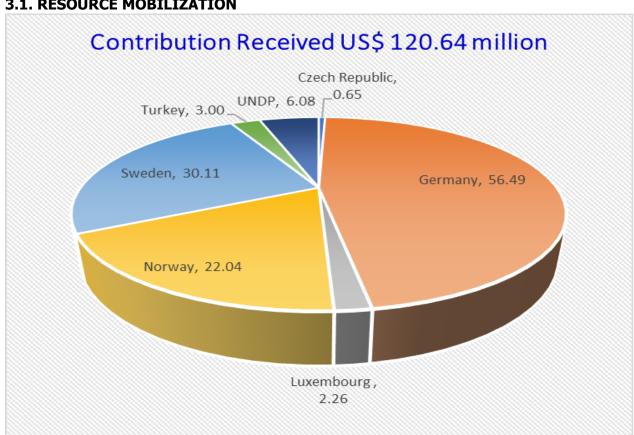
6. M&E Working Group

TFMU M&E team established STFA M&E Working Group where technical M&E staff from all PUNOs are participating. Since its inception in February 2022, the M&E working group has been conducting regular meetings. The M&E working group meetings serves as the key coordination mechanism for PUNOs to collaborate on critical M&E issues, agree on common M&E mechanisms under the joint programmes, exchange knowledge and best practices and find collective solution to M&E related problems and challenges. During the reporting period the TFMU M&E team organised two M&E WG meetings where course of actions around several critical M&E, reporting and programming issues were discussed and agreed.

In addition to the M&E WG meetings, the TFMU M&E team conducted four bilateral discussions with PUNOs to better understand PUNO-specific M&E and the possible areas to harmonize M&E across PUNOs, this will be continued in the next guarter.

PART 3. FINANCIAL REPORT

3.1. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



Note: Commitment received from other Contributors: Qatar (\$5.0 M) and Iceland (\$06.M)

3.2. PROGRAMME FINANCIAL DELIVERY

PUNO	Approved Allocation	Cumulative Fund Disbursed	Commitment During The Reporting Quarter	Expenditure During The Reporting Quarter	Commitment TO DATE	Expenditure TO DATE	UNSPENT BALANCE
ILO	4,192,754	2,138,580	1,227,336	140,482	1,227,336	147,430	763,814
IOM	15,684,068	10,596,750	4,390,893	3,408,994	4,390,893	3,669,971	2,535,886
UNCTAD	567,100	567,100	149,508	60,188	149,508	60,188	357,404
UNDP	32,833,883	28,240,400	2,388,391	1,839,067	2,388,391	3,679,594	22,172,415
UNESCO	3,628,161	2,972,620	392,084	88,052	305,967	337,324	2,329,330
UNFPA	3,545,763	3,272,302	489,377	309,931	489,377	453,450	2,329,475
UN- HABITAT	6,399,207	3,986,570	130,119	636,179	535,214	1,041,572	2,409,784
UNHCR	15,894,189	10,426,390	-	4,599,699	-	10,426,390	-
UNODC	1,305,400	1,305,400	231,126	184.608	595,381	220,327	489,692
UNOPS	2,199,733	2,199,733	377,299	959,125	379,966	959,567	860,200
UN WOMEN	1,478,918	1,035,460	77,157	166,622	77,157	232,306	725,998
FAO	10,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	97,729,176	66,741,305	9,853,290	12,392,948	10,539,189	21,228,433	34,973,683

PART 4. RISKS AND CHALLENGES

This section refers to the status of major risks identified during the design stage, and key mitigation measures employed. In addition, emerging risks that had not been foreseen during the design stage – and that might have an impact on the delivery of the programme have also been identified and mitigation measures were put in place to minimise the risk.

1. Women's inclusion and participation in Joint Programme (JP) interventions

Impediments on inclusion and participation of women in the JP have been one of those risks that were identified during the design stage of the JP and are reported almost by all PUNOs to have been realised during the reporting period. In most cases, the *de facto* authorities (DfAs) have utterly blocked women's participation in the JP activities such as inclusion in CfW activities, attending the capacity building on sensitive topics such as GBV and women and human rights and other livelihood activities, while in other instances the DfAs have conditioned women's participation such as segregation of men and women workspaces, and women to be accompanied by their Mahrams (men escort). The aforesaid coupled with cultural barriers are discouraging and limiting women's participation. In response, PUNOs have been employing the following mitigation strategies:

- Engage closely with the Humanitarian Access Group (HAG), Protection Cluster/GBV Sub-Cluster, and UNAMA, and have strengthened advocacy and engagement with DfAs and other influential actors at Kabul and provincial levels to mitigate these barriers.
- Communicate the logic, type, approach, and benefits of the activities for vulnerable people under the STFA to DfAs and respective communities.
- To reduce sensitivities, assigned women staff to work with women at the community level in a women-only space.
- Where feasible, engage Mahrams with women (both staff and beneficiaries) to mitigate risks, even though encounter additional costs during implementation.

2. Interference in the implementation of the Joint Programme (JP)

Almost all PUNOs have witnessed interference in their implementation by the DfAs and in some cases the local communities. From DfA's side, intrusions were made in the beneficiary selection process where PUNOs were pressurised to select beneficiaries without taking into consideration the respective targeting criterion. In another instance, DfAs tried to impose changes in the duration of the CME education. In addition to DfAs, interferences were also caused by community members asking PUNOs to drop vulnerability criteria for beneficiary selection and instead, consider beneficiaries as per their recommendation. This has resulted in delays in the implementation of activities as it requires time to negotiate and resolve such issues. The PUNOs have been responsive in this regard and have been organising meetings with DfAs and community members/key actors to communicate the real issues and limitations that PUNOs have concerning the scope and targeting of beneficiaries as measures to mitigate these emerging risks.

Further, those issues have been brought to the attention of the UN Risk Management Working Group and further to the UNCT, hence ensuring consistency across different Agencies, Funds and Programme in addressing common challenges.

3. Risks/challenges related to duplication of efforts

In the second quarter of joint programme implementation, PUNOs identified limited duplication of efforts especially related to planning similar activities or overlapping in the target communities, which happened due to limited coordination on the ground in some instances. As soon as such instances were identified by UN-Habitat, a coordination meeting among PUNOs was organised in Mazar-e-Sharif took place and further, those monthly meetings are taking place to ensure that the activities are well coordinated. In another instance, in the absence of CDCs, UNODC through its IP established local Shuras to ensure coordination, and effectiveness in activities and ultimately avoid duplications. Drawn from the above, better coordination mechanisms have been put in place at the local and Kabul level.

4. Risks/Challenges related to signing MoUs

Engagement with the DfA has been reported as a major challenge. PUNOs have been engaging with DfA while acknowledging the limitations set up in the UN Transitional Engagement Plan under the engagement principles. IPs that are implementing JPs under PUNOs have been required to sign MoUs with the Afghanistan Ministry of Economy (MoEc) and relevant sectoral ministries at the Kabul level, followed by formal coordination with relevant provincial directorates. PUNOs have reported that this is a lengthy process and causes delays in implementation, particularly when additional negotiations and clarification with DfA are required. PUNOs through their IPs are using case-specific mitigation measures such as advocacy and conducting negotiation meetings to avoid unnecessary delays. So far this remains a challenge that can impact programme implementation in the coming months.

5. Unpredictable Security Situation

The security situation remains unreliable in Afghanistan, even though no major incidents have been stated during the reporting period. However, under the guidance and instructions of UNDSS, all PUNOs have been vigilant and closely monitoring the situation on the ground with their respective team. Another mitigation measure has been coordination between PUNOs operating in the same location to minimize security incidents.

6. Logistics and management-related risks/challenges

PUNOs have also faced challenges related to logistics during the reporting period. In numerous cases, PUNOs encountered weak and/or non-functional local and national market capacity, where the supply of equipment and/or materials required for the activities was unavailable/insufficient. Similar challenges were encountered in hiring female staff to carry out project activities in some of the remote areas in the Northern region. These issues caused delays in the delivery of programme activities and subsequently the expected results. To manage and overcome this risk, PUNOs have been undertaking procurements in Kabul or internationally by utilising the Long Term Agreements (LTAs) with qualified vendors. PUNOs have been engaging with a wide range of stakeholders at provincial and Kabul levels to identify qualified female staff.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 – See attached excel sheet

ANNEX 2 – HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

Story 1 – Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training enabled Mahbooba Saleemi Zazai to raise fund for her business in Balkh Province

Ms. Zazai had an established business "Aryoub Zazai Tailoring and Embroidery Company" in Balkh province before the power shif in August 2021. She had to downsize her work and reduce the number of people who were employed in this company.

"After the powershift, my business almost collapsed. Prior to the collapse, I had 60 staff at my Embroidery company who were sewing, designing, and producing different types of Afghan clothes and 40 staff in my tailoring factory and since there was no market, I had to say goodbye to most of



Mahbooba Saleemi Zazai

my employees. I lost my customers both wholesalers and families who were buying my products.

By attending the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) and Improve Your Business (IYB) training workshops I learned how to design my business plan and develop a quality proposal to raise funds. Utilising my knowledge and skills obtained from these pieces of training, I developed my proposal and submitted it to ILO, which was selected from among 160 companies. It was because I had gained knowledge and learnt new skills to present my ideas and business plan through SIYB training workshop".

Attending the training workshop helped her not only to learn and improve her knowledge and skills to develop a business plan and improve her business but also helped her to put her knowledge into practice and design a new project and raise funds for her business.

She asks UNCTAD to continue building capacities of women entrepreneurs by organizing trainings and exhibitions where they can learn new skills and also connect to the international markers.

Story 2 - Mother who had difficult pregnancy becomes the first midwife in her village in Faryab Province

Pregnant women face several challenges to have access to the maternity care in the remote villages. Having gone through the same situation in her life, Sima Ayoubu pushed her to take midwifery as her profession.



Sima Ayoubi receives certificate upon completion of the two month skills training in June 2022

"Even now, we don't have health professionals, including midwives, to support pregnant women in our village," Ms. Ayobi said. "I also had a hard time with my own pregnancy and that's when I decided to become a midwife so I can support the women in my village."

Ms. Ayobi is one of the 36 midwives currently undergoing a two-month mandatory refresher training in Afghanistan's Northern region. After the completion of this training, , the midwives will be deployed to the Family Health Houses in the region to support the provision of reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health care.

About 10 percent of the country's population live in remote areas where the nearest health facility is on average 10 kilometres away. The FHH programme is an initiative of UNFPA to address the issues on

inadequate health care for women, newborns and children in these hard-to-reach areas.

Afghanistan has the highest maternal death rates in the Asia and the Pacific region with about one woman dying every two hours due to preventable pregnancy and childbirth complications. Women's lack of access to facilities for safe deliveries is one of the contributing factors to this grim situation. At the beginning of the year, UNFPA was supporting 172 FHHs across Afghanistan. With the support of the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan, 58 more FHHs will be constructed in the Northern region to reach more people living in remote communities.

Sima says, the current situation of health services in our village is very poor. There is no health facility and people have to travel for up to three hours to come to the district center to receive health services," Ms Ayobi proudly says, I will be the first midwife in Pashtun Koot district after completion of the refresher training.

Ms. Ayobi did not have the chance to work as a full-time midwife since graduating from a midwifery institute in 2017 that's why she is grateful for the opportunity provided by UNFPA to work in the FHH supported by the STFA.

I am ready to work and provide services to the people in my village through FHH and also very happy with UNFPA's decision to open and establish a FHH in my village.

Story 3 - Cash for Work Helps Ezatullah to Take Care of his Disabled Daughter in Mazar-e-Sharif City, Balkh Province



Ezatullah, CfW beneficiary for Waste Management Project in Mazar city

Despite several attempts, Ezatullah, who lives in Police District 1 of Mazar-e-Sharif, and is the only breadwinner of his family, could not find a job. He was disappointed, and it was hard for him to feed and economically support his family. He has six family members, and one of his daughters is living with disability.

When UN-Habitat started Cash for Work activities for the Waste Management project under the Area-based Approach for Development Emergency Initiatives (ABADEI) programme, Ezatullah was hired as an unskilled labourer for this project. He was paid 500 Afs per day (equivalent to around \$6USD) from 18 April 2022 to 11 May 2022.

Ezatullah says that this is a timely and much needed project which should continue in Mazar because in the current situation when people are struggling to find a job and deprived from fulfilling basic needs.

"It is difficult to feed my family without any income. Now that I am hired by UN-Habitat in the Cash for Work project, I am able to support my family and take care of my daughter who is living with disability. I thank UN-Habitat and the ABADEI programme for providing a job opportunity for me"says Ezatullah.

ANNEX 3 - PHOTOS

Include brief descriptions (for vetting by Communications). Also add caption. Please ensure, before sharing, adherence to relevant PUNO's communication policy regarding privacy, consent, etc.



Grantee AWEC providing vocational training for vulnerable Young woman doing road maintenance in Aybak women at a UNICEF safe space in Mazar District (Sufihaa) (UNOPS/Constanza Malagamba) (UNOPS/Constanza Malagamba)



Men doing road maintenance in Aybak District (Sufihaa) (UNOPS/Constanza Malagamba)



A female coach teaching the MSMEs the concept of "Start Your Business (SYB)" in Faryab Province.



MSMEs workshop participants presenting ideas in Improve Your Business (IYB) capacity building sessions in Jawzjan Province



A trainer briefing unemployed midwives on the topic of Basic Emergency Obstetric and New-born Care (BEmONC) in Kabul who will work at the Family Health Houses (FHHs) in the North region.







(During) Waste Disposal CFW Project in PD5, GA#11 of Mazar-i-Sharif



(After) Waste Disposal CFW Project in PD8, GA#1 of Mazar-i-Sharif



The midwives proudly presented their certificates after completing the training in Kabul in June 2022 and they are ready for working in FHHs



Sub-committees Gathering in PD5, GA#11 for Listing Their Challenges, Mazare-Sharif City



MSMEs workshop participants presenting ideas in Improve Your Business (IYB) capacity building sessions in Jawzjan Province





GA member presenting community recovery and resilience plan to STFA donor mission



Community Development Council Meeting with IDPs in PD7, GA#5, Kandahar City



Community Development Council Meeting with Persons with Disabilities in PD7, GA#5, Kandahar City