



Livelihoods Needs Assessment at the Returnee Settlements of Nangarhar and Kunar Provinces, Afghanistan

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Executive Summary

The following bullet points were extracted from the focus groups discussions:

- Returnees are in need of income-generating activities, Vocational Trainings and technical education. Specific requests for types of vocational trainings varied from camp to camp, although requests typically were for one of the following: poultry, kitchen gardening, mechanical training, mobile repairs and plumbing.
- Returnees would welcome a cash grants program, only if there is an interest in it.
- There is still a need for GBV projects.
- Returnees are in need of a mental health and psychosocial service program.
- Returnees in the assessed sites have a very low income (e.g. between \$70-80 a month), which has further dropped due to insecurity and election dilemma.
- Due to a lack of jobs (exact percent of people who are unemployed was not identified), returnees' food intake is low and there are cases where children have dropped out of school and are now engaged in child labor.
- Women and girls are mostly engaged in household chores, while men are responsible for income.
- Business owners in the city welcome partnerships with women vocational trainers and Shuras based on various pre-defined mechanisms.
- Most of the returnees believe they had a better life while they were living as refugees in Pakistan compared to living in their own country.
- Almost all sites welcome job opportunities for females inside the returnee settlements or nearby the settlements.

Background

International Medical Corps (IMC) is one of the leading organizations who first implemented gender-based violence (GBV) projects in the Eastern Region of Afghanistan. In addition to implementing two GBV projects, including a community based and a multi-sectoral health based project, International Medical Corps has also led the GBV Sub Cluster since 2010. With the support of The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), IMC began a GBV project in 2009 in the returnee sites of Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar, which has continued until recently. In 2010, IMC started vocational trainings and a literacy program for the returnees in the Eastern Region. The project was carried out until December 2012.

In order to effectively respond to the community's current needs, IMC initiated a focus group discussion in the returnee sites of Nangarhar and Kunar. The purpose was to better address problems, solutions, and multi-dynamic cooperation. The focus group discussions were completed in 10 sites, including ShiekhMisre New Township, Lower ShikhMisre, QasimAabad, Barikkab, Saracha, WochTangi, Chamtala, KhaasKunar and GatoQala. International Medical Corps also held consultations with the local Shuras. In each site, four separate group discussions were conducted for young girls, women, young boys and men.

From a religious scholar to a school teacher to a young soccer player to a widow, each sector of a community was involved in the assessment. The focus groups were designed to ensure that each area of the community was covered, via a representative, in the discussion.

International Medical Corps also aimed to observe the market, stocks, savings and females' access to the market. In this regard, specific market interventions were made by asking frequent question regarding the market and community.

Objectives

- Identify the livelihood needs of the targeted returnee settlements in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces.
- Use the findings to prepare effective and relevant interventions to respond to the identified needs of the returnee population.

Methodology and Process

Methods

Data collection in the field was carried out through focus group discussions (FGDs). Four separate focus group discussions were conducted in each returnee site for women, men, girls and boys. Each group comprised of 10-12 individuals including Shura leaders, daily wagers, teachers, religious scholars, vocational trainers, household representatives, young girls, women, mothers and young boys, both educated and uneducated.

Team Selection

International Medical Corps selected GBV psychosocial counselors to conduct focus group discussion in the targeted returnee settlements. A team of 10 was comprised, made up of male and female psychosocial counselors

The majority of these GBV psychosocial counselors are from the same community, are well-known and have respect among the community. The IMC GBV team helped with the assessment and supervised the focus group discussions in the field.

Team Orientation

A comprehensive one day orientation/workshop session was conducted for team members prior to starting the assessment in the field. During the orientation, the leaders of each team:

- Reviewed the processes and procedures by which the focus group discussion would be conducted.
- Divided the tasks between male and female, with specific roles and responsibilities in effort to facilitate an efficient and comprehensive assessment.
- Determined mechanisms to facilitate coordination meetings with key stakeholders, with a particular focus on the engagement of community elders including male and female, teachers, religious scholar, vocational trainers and youth (boys and girls).
- Discussed inclusion criteria with team members and agreed upon a timeline to complete the assessment plan.

Sample Size

The sample size was made up of four group discussions per each site (10 sites total). There were 40 FGDs (with 10-12 participants per a FGD), in which approximately 400 participants took part.

Data Analysis

Data was entered from the assessment forms into an excel sheet and a statistical analysis was performed. The statistical analysis included descriptive statistics checking data and summarizing it, measuring characteristics of location and dispersal, checking variables for normal distribution, frequencies and regression and correlation analyses.

Results

The participants in the focus group discussion in all targeted sites noted that displacement from Pakistani refugee camps to Afghan returnee sites have critically affected their income. During many discussions, respondents noted that they had very good income-generating activities while in refugee camps in Pakistan, including business, carpentry, mechanical work and daily wages.

Regarding household needs with the current income, only one focus group out of four in WochTangi reported that with their current income, they could fulfill their needs. The rest of the

sites in WochTangi reported that they could not fulfill their needs with their current income which was not more than \$70 a month. FGD participants in KhasKunar returnee settlements reported that only 20% of their needs are fulfilled. The others persist in a very difficult situation.

Regarding coping strategies for income and food almost all of the sites reported low daily wages for males. In some sites, such as ShiekhMisre New Township and Lower ShiekhMisre, child labor was also reported. Additionally, the conditions of some camps are worsening, such as in KhasKunar, where daily wages are very scarce. It was reported that many of the youths have joined the Afghan National Army and police in order to support their families.

Limitations

Despite security concerns in Khas Kunar and Chamtala returnee settlements, International Medical Corps was able to conduct the needs assessment due to its strong relation with the community in the targeted provinces as well as its trust among the community. Communities actively supported and facilitated the IMC team in conducting the assessment, particularly in reaching to women and young girls. However, due to cultural limitations, the focus group discussions for males and females had to be conducted separately.

Findings

Effects of Displacement on Livelihoods

Household Needs and Current Income

Table 1: The table below shows sources of income for both males and females.

S. NO	Name of Site	Males	Females	Remarks
1	WochTangi	<i>Daily Wages</i>	<i>Wool Weaving, Carpet weaving, Teaching, Gardening</i>	<i>Very Few (e.g., approximately 20-30%)</i>
2	Chamtala 1,2	<i>Daily Wages</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>==</i>
3	Saracha	<i>Daily Wages, Farming on Wages, Loans</i>	<i>Few Women Gardening</i>	<i>==</i>
4	Bari Kaab	<i>Daily Wages</i>	<i>Tailoring, Embroidery, Animal Keeping, Poultry</i>	<i>Low Proportion (e.g., approximately 25-35%)</i>
5	KhasKunar	<i>Army</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Low Proportion</i>
6	ShiekhMisre New Twonship	<i>Child Labor, official Jobs</i>	<i>Few Teaching, Tailoring</i>	<i>Job Proportion very low</i>
7	Lower ShiekhMisre	<i>Daily Wages, Transport, Small Grocery Shops, Child Labor</i>	<i>Few Tailoring</i>	<i>==</i>

8	Qasim Abad	Daily Wages, Police Jobs	(Very Few Women) Poultry	==
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Coping Strategies and Negative Consequences on Families

Similar responses were found at numerous sites. The majority of respondents noted that primary concerns include children dropping out of school, low food intake, malnutrition, hardships, heavy burden of work on women and threat to life (especially for youth in the Army).

Greatest Needs

Needs varied between camps. Needs were different in those camps where there is no agricultural land, such as KhasKunar, than those such as GatoQala, where most of the youth are educated and seeking new courses, such as computer and accounting courses.

Table 2: This table briefly summarizes needs expressed by respondents.

S. No	Name of Site	Male Needs	Female Needs	If they had More Income Spend	FIs and NFIs to meet household needs
1	WochTangi	Technical education for educated youth such as diplomas in Banking, Accounting, English Language, Computer programs, Vocational Trainings for both men and women	Food security, Shelters, Food coupons, Income generation activities, Livelihoods, Embroidery link to market, Poultry	Better life opportunities, dress, food, children education	Wheat, Clothes, Blanket, Bricks for house, Ghee (butter), Sugar, Flour, Soap
2	Chamtala 1,2	Lack of water access, employment, shelters, Electricity, Livelihood needs	Access to water, livelihood generation activities, Shelters, Access to health, Access to education, Safe environment	Health, Education (particularly schooling for children)	Wheat, Rice, Maize, Cloth, Medicines, Tents
3	Saracha	Shelters, Income generation activities, Agriculture seeds and fertilizers, Education and	Shelters, Economical empowerment via income generation activities,	Health, Education (particularly schooling for children), Agriculture	Seeds, Maize, Wheat, Flour, Better life opportunities

		health access.	Female schools, female trainings in Computer and so on	seeds	
4	Bari Kaab	Peace, Education, Vocational Trainings	Peace, Education, Food coupon, Livelihood activities	Health and education	
5	KhasKunar	Employment of youth, food coupon, Income Generation activities, Well digging, Water	Vocational Trainings Well digging	Better Life opportunities, Water wells, education, health	
6	ShiekhMisre New Township	Employment opportunities, equal access to resources	Household equipments, Food, Income generation activities	Education, Health, Better life opportunities'	Seed, flour, sugar, ghee, Tents
7	Lower ShiekhMisre	Employment Opportunities, Child Education, Vocational Trainings	Income generation activities, Child education, Space	On roads, education, houses, children education	Flour, Sugar, Maize, Tents
8	Qasim Abad	Education, Health, Income Generation Activities	Female school, Vocational Trainings such as poultry but it should not be limited up to ten or twenty hen. In a broad way poultry farms up to 50 chickens. Embroidery, Kitchen Gardening	Education, Good life commodities, Better food	
9	GatoQala	Technical education for young boys, Income generation activities, Peace	Vocational Trainings such as embroidery, animal keeping, peace	Technical education for youth Health Education	

Access to Inputs

Almost all sites reported significant negative effects of displacement, particularly in regards to livelihoods and food intake. Many returnees indicated that when they were in Pakistan they had good occupations. For example, a man of KhasKunar reported that he was a very successful carpenter when in Pakistan. He had all machines and equipment necessary; however, in Afghanistan, due to lack of physical power and resources, he is jobless. All of his equipment was left in Pakistan when he and his family were forcibly evacuated. During the focus group discussion not a single group at any site reported any positive aspects of returning back to Afghanistan, primarily because in Pakistan they had more job opportunities and were also receiving aid.

Access to Land

It was reported that most of these sites are in areas where agricultural land is scarce. There is also scarcity of water. WachTangi, Sheikh Misre New Township, Bari Kaab and GatoQala have no access to agricultural land at all. Saracha and Qasim Abad have access to agricultural land on a partnership basis. In Chamtala and KhasKunar there is no agricultural land; however, it was reported that they can easily access the nearby sites on either partnership basis or on daily wages.

Credit Services

Many of the sites reported that they had no access to credit. It was also reported that fewer organizations tried to launch micro credit, however these efforts failed because of interest. FINCA supported by MISFA and MADRAC supported by MISFA have tried to deliver. It was reported by the community members that they would accept loans or credit services only if there is no interest, because taking and giving interest is forbidden in the holy religion of Islam and it a great sin and should be on easily installments.

Roles of Women

Division of Labor within Household

As evidenced by the findings detailed in Table 3 below, the division of work in the household is primarily considered a woman's responsibility. Respondents also indicated that men are so engaged in generating earnings to support their families that they cannot find time to support women.

During the focus group discussion, participants were asked questions such as: What responsibilities do the women and girls in your household have? How much time do they spend on these responsibilities? Does it affect their ability to go to school or work outside of the household?

Participants reported that women and girls are responsible for maintaining the household, including all housework and chores. In some sites it was reported that young schoolgirls only do chores for two to three hours a day, in effort to ensure that housework does not interfere with

studies. However, other sites reported that young girls are more affected in households where there are less women.

Table 3: This table synthesizes findings regarding the division of labor in households.

S. No	Name of Site	Males	Females
1	WochTangi	Work outside home, no household share	Teaching children, Tailoring, Washing, Cooking, Cleaning
2	Chamtala 1,2	No Share in work around the house. Responsible for income	Bringing up children, Conducting household work and chores
3	Saracha	Work Outside home, Grass Cutting for animals	Cooking, washing, cleaning, baby sitting, Tailoring, Work around the house
4	Bari Kaab	Responsible for income	Tailoring, Embroidery, Animal Keeping, Poultry
5	KhasKunar	No House Hold Work, Only responsible for income	Cooking, Washing, Baby Sitting, cleaning and so on
6	ShiekhMisre New Township	Work Outside home. Hard Works for men	Conducting household work and chores
7	Lower ShiekhMisre	Work Outside home. Hard Works for men	Conducting household work and chores
8	Qasim Abad	Responsible for outside Work	Conducting household work and chores
9	GatoQala	Work Outside home, responsible for income	Washing, Cooking and all other chores

Livelihood and Income Generations Activities Traditionally Accepted

During the focus group discussion it was reported that in most of these sites the livelihoods and income generation activities accepted for women include tailoring, embroidery, poultry, wool weaving, carpet weaving, kitchen gardening and raising cows and goats.

Allowance for Women to Work

During the focus group discussion it was reported that very few women are allowed to work in public sites; women are permitted only in QasimAabad. The rest of the sites permitted women to work inside their sites or very nearby sites as teachers, religious scholars, doctors, midwives, and nurses' vocational training teachers, and counselors; however it was reported that these jobs should be within the sites.

Community Concern Regarding Different Jobs for Women

Many sites reported that some women, particularly widows, work private jobs in houses, as cleaners, in the fields with farmers and, in some cases, as beggars. Communities have mixed views regarding women working these types of jobs. Some consider it an obligation while others consider it bad practice.

Widows or Other Women Living Alone with Children

It was reported that in almost all the sites there were widows (women) who headed households. For survival most of these widows work in private houses as cleaners or cooks. Some were reported to have worked very hard in the fields with farmers. Some are totally dependent on their relatives and neighbors. It was also reported that few of these women are beggars. They face the problems of harassments, low food intake, insecurity, and deprivation from basic human needs.

Access to Services among Men and Women

During the focus group discussion it was noted that women have less access to services in comparison to men, due to the fact that access was not viewed as a priority. It is because most of these women are vulnerable to services.

Financial Decisions Made by Women

All female groups reported that they are unable to make decisions without consulting men. Some male focus groups reported that they consult their wives regarding the purchase of select items, including food and non-food items and loans or other things that are borrowed.

Perceptions on What Skills Women Should Learn

It was reported during the focus group discussion that families welcome skills such as tailoring, embroidery, poultry, animals raising, kitchen gardening, carpet making, *Chrama* weaving. Poultry was considered the best during the focus group discussion.

Skills that make the lives of women a threat should be disapproved. These were reported as taking women into the city and teaching them skills such as applying makeup.

Economic Programs Best Meet Needs

It was reported during the focus group discussion that there should be equal opportunities for both male and females. Respondents also noted that in many sites there are youth who desperately need technical education, such as degrees in banking, accounting, computer and English Language. Women specifically were reported to be in need of poultry, animal raising, carpet making, kitchen gardening. The community also recommended vocational trainings program for youth who are not educated.

Livelihoods and Income

Income Sources

Most respondents indicated that sites depend on casual labor. In select sites, such as QasimAbad and Saracha, people are also engaged with production of milk and cheese. Very few people are working on a regular basis and some are also teaching.

Returnees Doing Different Jobs than in Pakistan

Returnees in KhasKunar reported that they had very good sources of income while in Pakistan. These respondents indicated that in Pakistan they had their own businesses and occupations. One respondent noted that he was jobless in Afghanistan but had a good business in Pakistan. However, many respondents noted that they left Pakistan with very short notice, as they were forcibly evacuated, and they consequently left their jobs and sources of income.

Groups Who Reported Reasons for Decreased Income

Farmers: The income of farmers has been reduced almost to zero, except in KhasKunar, Saracha, Qasim Abad and very few of chamtala where land could be found on a partnership basis. However, it was reported that land is very scarce and that only a few farmers can take advantage of it.

Cattle owners: Cattle owners' income has also decreased. It was reported that cattle owners have moved to daily wagers, due to the lack of green fodders and land.

Agricultural laborers: It was reported that in many sites women bring water from far sites. There is a very low chance of agricultural laborers.

Pension

Daily Wagers: Respondents indicated that when returnees first came back to Afghanistan there was significant work on a daily basis but now daily wagers are in a severe situation.

Displaced People: Respondents also indicated that returnees who came back to the sites after most of the other returnees did not have as many options as others.

Greatest Challenges to Livelihoods in the Next Four Months

Returnees who participated in the focus group discussions reported that overall situations are worsening due to the presidential election. The election has also affected daily wages and market prices have also increased. Some groups reported that with winter approaching many people, particularly widows, will need NFIs and FIs.

Coping Strategies and Responses

Many respondents indicated that, in response to decreased income, people have reduced their food intake and in some cases have also taken their children out of school. Some people who had very good occupations in Pakistan have now resorted to selling mobile cards or chips on the side of the roads. Few people work in nearby fields and many people are in debt. Respondents also noted that, in addition to having stable income in Pakistan, they were able to receive humanitarian aid from various organizations. However, there are not as many sources for aid in Afghanistan.

Support Available to Populations

- SGBV Services (All sites)
- Free health care (Respondents did indicate that medicine and medical tests are not enough)
- Shuras

Population Groups Need to Recover Their Pre-shock Income and Food Consumption Levels

Table 4

Type of additional assistance	Groups with income and food consumption difficulties							
	Refugee Children	Refugee Women	Refugee Men	IDPs	Repatriated Women	Repatriated Men	Repatriated Children	Refugee Children
Vocational Trainings		✓			✓			
Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Skills		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carpet weaving, Poultry		✓			✓			
Free food	✓			✓			✓	✓
Cash transfers				✓	✓	✓		
Agricultural Inputs						✓		
Equipment						✓		

Populations and Assistance

During the FGD it became apparent that most returnees have received some form of assistance. However, for those who were involved with agriculture when they were refugees in Pakistan, they were ignored and were not provided seeds. There was also no agricultural land available in Afghanistan, and the capacity of local authorities is limited for solving this problem.

Main Difficulties and Priorities

The main shocks and difficulties faced by the village/neighborhoods inhabitants in the six months were reported as:

1. Electricity Cuts
2. Lack of health facilities
3. Unemployment
4. Severe heat
5. High food and fuel prices
6. Lack of daily wages due to insecurity

Priorities for the village/neighborhoods inhabitants to prevent future crises were described as:

1. Employment opportunities
2. Vocational Trainings, income generation activities
3. Food coupons
4. Credit access on easily installments with no interest rate
5. Technical education for educated youth.

Current Livelihoods Activities and Activities over the Next Four Months

As indicated in the table below, most returnees persist on daily wages. In some cases, people also do tailoring, embroidery, teaching or work jobs in the Army.

Table 5

Livelihood Activities now & next four months	Gender M / F or both	When usually starts	Approx % of HH involved	Can it be restarted in the next four months? Yes / No	If no, WHY unable to engage?	Assets and/or activities required to continue, start or re-start the activities?		
						Asset type	Unit	Quantity
Daily Wages Army (KhasKunar)	Male Boys	Any time	25%	Not sure. Depends on situation	Depends on election progress	Daily wagers tools		5 to 7
Tailoring, Embroidery Daily wages Teaching (Barikaab)	Both Females Men Both	Anytime Anytime Depends Anytime	10% 10% 50% 15%	Yes		Tailoring Machine Embroidery kits		
Daily Wages Farming Agriculture Shops (Saracha)	Male Males Both Males	Anytime	30% 25% 15% 20%			Seeds, fertilizers		
Teaching Daily Wages Tailoring Animals WochTangi	Both Males Both		15% 30% 10% 5%	Yes		Tools for tailoring Fertilizers and foddors		

Daily wages	Men		35%	Yes		Tools for Mechanics		
Shops	Men		7%					
Mechanic	Men		10%					
Transport	Men		10%					
Teaching (Chamtala)	Females		10%					

Livelihood Asset Ownership and Potential Loss

In some sites, participants indicated that community members have animals such as goats and cows. However, due to lack of grass, owners may sell these animals in the coming few months. It was briefed that in some sites people have animals such as cow and goats, however, due to lack of grass, they might sell these animals in the coming few months.

Table 6: This table explains community views on asset ownership and potential loss.

Q18. Asset (type of livestock, machinery, tools, seeds, etc.) owned by most of the affected households	% of HH that own these assets?		Q21. In danger of losing in the next 2 months? Yes / No	Q21. If YES, WHY?
	Q19. Pre-Shock	Q20. Post-Shock (NOW)		
Animals (Cow, Goat, sheep)	50%	20%	Yes	Due to lack of grassy land, Fodder unavailable in some sites
Tailoring	20% to 30%	20 to 30%	No	
Poultry	60%	20%	Yes	Due to lack of food and space also lack of medicine for them
Agricultural activities	30%	20%	No	

Livestock

Community members who participated in the FGD indicated that in Pakistan almost every other home had livestock – either a cow, goat or sheep. However, due to lack of land, fodder, water and animal husbandry facilities people are compelled to sell their livestock. In some sites, such as Qasim Abad, Saracha, and KhasKunar, there are very few goats and cows. These animals not only face lack of fodder and water, but also lack of shelter. Returnees do not have the

means to accommodate the animals in severe winter or scorching heat. FGD participants also reported that water is also a problem. For example, in KhasKunar there are only a few wells which are not even sufficient for people, so access to water for animal remains a huge challenge.

Market Conditions and Food Basket Costs

Market Survey

During the assessments it was known that the nearby markets have the capacity to restore and restock in case of an emergency. It was also reported that the markets in the sites are mostly small with few shops, but they can also restock if they are provided loans.

Table 7: This table shows the commodity prices in Jalalabad market, which is the sum market for all camps except Khas Kunar and GatoQala.

Commodity	Unit	Q43. Price Pre-Shock	Q44. Price Post-Shock (NOW)	Q45. Price in nearest large market Post-Shock (NOW)
Flour	Bag (50 kg)	1050Afs*	1150Afs*	1170Afs*
Potatoes	7 kilo	80Afs	250 Afs	250 Afs
Beans	7 KG	550 Afs	600 Afs	600 Afs
Oil / Fat	5 Kg	500 Afs	550 Afs	555 Afs
Sugar	7 Kg	220 Afs	300Afs	300 320 Afs
Mai	7 Kg	440 Afs	490 Afs	500Afs
Daal	7 Kg	340 Afs	360 Afs	360 to 370 Afs

* 57 Afs = one USD

The prices shown in above table are slightly different than those of Kunar. In Kunar the prices are 3 to 5% higher for each of these commodities.

It was also reported that the shopkeepers in the markets have a 15 to 50% of savings on which a shock can be restored, however, they would look for support in terms of money in case there is a shock.

Women’s Access to the Market

During the FGD it was reported that women can only access the market when men or boys are unavailable. When women do go to the market, they are accompanied by a boy or mahram, if a boy is unavailable. Regarding the selling of products, the communities reported that there should be a logical mechanism for such sales.

Additionally, reports stated that women do not need to travel, as many of the products they sell are within the community. If travel does prove necessary, reports stated that the community would assign a male individual who could take the female-made products to the market and then sell them.

Business Owners View Regarding Women’s Share in Market

It was reported by business owners that they would always have a positive view if women sold their homemade products in the markets. Business owners also reported that they would be happy to partner with women to supply goods to the market, however, there should be mechanisms for such action.

Business owners in the city also reported that items such as embroidery, pickles, jams, cheese and sausages are good products, which women can sell.

Findings show that markets are accessible in almost all sites, with varying distances.

Table 8: This table illustrates the names of markets, distances from the proposed operational areas and the time required to reach each respective market.

S. No	Name of Site	Nearby Market	Distance (via local transport)	Price Trend
1	<i>WochTangi</i>	<i>Behsood, Jalalabad</i>	<i>45 Minutes</i>	<i>Inflationary</i>
2	<i>Chamtala 1,2</i>	<i>Fateh Abad, Chamtala, Surkhrod, Jalalabad</i>	<i>20 to 45 minutes</i>	<i>Inflationary</i>
3	<i>Saracha</i>	<i>Jalalabad</i>	<i>20 minutes</i>	<i>Inflationary</i>
4	<i>Bari Kaab</i>	<i>Local + Jalalabad</i>	<i>35 minutes</i>	<i>Inflationary</i>
5	<i>KhasKunar</i>	<i>Sokai</i>	<i>30 Minutes</i>	<i>Inflationary</i>
6	<i>ShiekhMisre New Township</i>	<i>Do Saraka, City Jalalabad</i>	<i>45 minutes</i>	<i>Inflationary</i>
7	<i>Lower ShiekhMisre</i>	<i>O Saraka Jalalabad</i>	<i>25 Minutes</i>	<i>Inflationary</i>
8	<i>Qasim Abad</i>	<i>Behsood</i>	<i>15 Minutes</i>	<i>Inflationary</i>
9	<i>GatoQala</i>	<i>Asad Abad</i>	<i>25 Minutes</i>	

As depicted in the above table, markets are not extremely far from the sites. As a result, returnees can easily access these markets. The market rate, however, is variable and often changes within days.

In terms of food basket costs, the average daily food of a household is reported to be between 250 Afs to 350 Afs. Families cannot cover this cost. Additionally, an average household is comprised of 8-10 people, in which most cases, there is only one family head earning an income. Gaps include children dropping out of school, low nutrient intake and child labor. During the focus group discussions it was also noted that government has done very little to improve this situation. Participants reported that there is no social security fund.

Types of Services Community Needed

During the FGD, the communities asked for technical education for educated youth. These might include one-year programs in accounting, banking, mobile software, etc. They also demanded income-generating activities for women, such as poultry and kitchen gardening. Communities also asked for vocational trainings in mechanics, carpentry and carpet making.

Household Information

Household Composition and Marital Status

It was reported that in many sites the head of households are men. In some few cases there are widows take on the head of households as well.

Table 9

Age range	Male (Average)	Female (Average)
0-5 years	2	1
6-11 years	1	1
12-17 years	2	2
16-63 years	2	2

Income

Focus group discussions showed that in many households there is only one person earning an income. This income via the past six months is variable, except for those households in Khas Kunar where there are boys in the army who receive a regular income.

Within families, individuals reported looking for jobs, as there has been a 20 to 30% decrease of the incomes of households in the past six months. In some cases there has been a 50% decrease in income.

Respondents reported that the three most important sources of income are:

- Casual labor
- Social welfare, aid or borrowing

- Non-agricultural wage

Women’s Decisions Regarding Household Spending for Large Items

32 focus group discussions reported that women alone cannot make decisions regarding the purchase of large items. Men reported that they do consult with women regarding such purchases and few men considered it insignificant to consult women when buying large items. It was reported that household expenditures that are consumed on a daily basis, such as food, including vegetables and fruit, are decided mainly by women.

Assistance from Relatives

During the focus group discussions it was reported that relatives assist each other in terms of helping provide food, blankets, power as well as with other items.

Expenditures and Debts

Percent Spent On Food Last Week

During the focus group discussions it was reported that a normal family comprising of 7 to 8 individuals spends a minimum of 2200 Afs (39 USD) / week on food. The FGD participants also noted that their scarce daily wages made it very difficult to fulfill their needs. It was reported that expenditure on food and energy has increased in the last six months.

Table 10

S. No	Type of food	Minimum	Maximum
5.1.1	Bread	500Afs	750 Afs
5.1.2	Rice	100 Afs	200 Afs
5.1.3	Cassava	100 Afs	100 Afs
5.1.4	Potatoes	100 Afs	150 Afs
5.1.5	Oil, butter, ghee	250Afs	300 Afs
5.1.6	Sugar, honey, jam	120 Afs	150 Afs
5.1.7	Milk, cheese, yogurt	100 Afs	200 Afs
5.1.8	Meat, fish, eggs	300 Afs	300 Afs
5.1.9	Vegetables, fruits	300Afs	350 Afs
5.1.10	Groundnuts, nuts		
5.1.11	Other food expenditures (condiments, beverages,	200 Afs	250 Afs

	etc)		
5.1.12	Meals outside, snack, beverages consumed outside home	200 Afs	200 Afs

Vulnerabilities and Challenges, Assistance Needed, Coping Strategies

Table 11: Vulnerabilities and Challenges, as described by community leaders during FGDs

S. No	Vulnerable In The Community	Challenges Faced	Assistance Needed	Livelihood Prior To Repatriation
1	Widows	Low food intake, lack of job availability, bringing up of children, shelters	Shelters, food coupons, poultry, cow	Depended on relatives and NGOs, charity
2	Children, Orphans	Low food intake, lack of books, fee, medicine, illness, shelters, misuse	Scholarships, monthly stipend	Charity
3	Young Boys	Lack of technical education, courses, high education	Technical education	Students
4	Women and Girls	Female schools, lack of employment opportunities, low food intake	Income-generating activities	Income-generating activities

Economic Programs That Might Best Serve the Community

During the focus group discussions it was reported that almost all of the sites would like their educated youth to receive technical education in areas such as accounting, finance, computer, or English language.

For widows and females, poultry, embroidery, cow raising, carpet making, kitchen gardening skills would be extremely useful.

For uneducated youth vocational trainings such as mechanic, carpentry, mobile repairing etc. would be beneficial.

Conclusion

Through this assessment, International Medical Corps was able to identify livelihoods needs among returnees in the Nangarhar and Kunar provinces. The assessment was also able to provide insight into the market, stocks, savings and females' access to the market, and how such factors affect the livelihoods of returnees.

Overall, income-generating activities have decreased daily in the returnee settlements of Nangarhar and Kunar provinces and there are needs for respective response projects. While particular needs and requests vary between camps, all of the returnee settlements in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces are in need of a livelihood project.

Recommendations

- During the focus group discussions, it was reported that almost all of the sites want their educated youth to get technical education such as accounting, finance, computer, or English language.
- Skills such as tailoring, embroidery, poultry, animals raising, kitchen gardening, carpet making, *Chrama* Waving and poultry were considered among the most valuable for women.