

Basic Info:

 <p>Map Sources: UNCS, ESRI, The Times Atlas of the World. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Map created in Sep 2013.</p>	Established:	2003
	Country Office:	Kabul
	Field offices:	Balkh, Faryab, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Sar-i-Pul, Badghis
	Budget 2015:	120 million NOK
	Budget 2014:	131 million NOK
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	International staff:	19
	National staff:	420
Core Activities:	  	

Donors:

Main Donors: NMFA, Norad, DANIDA, ECHO, EuropeAid, SIDA, UNHCR

Other Donors: DFATD, OCHA, UNICEF

Humanitarian and political context :

Afghanistan remains in a state of protracted humanitarian crisis. In 2015, it is expected that armed opposition groups will maintain a high intensity of attacks, with conflict as well as natural disasters likely to cause further significant displacement coupled with shrinking operational access for humanitarian actors.

Since 2002, more than six million Afghans are estimated to have returned to Afghanistan. Close to three million registered Afghan refugees remain in Iran and Pakistan, with many more undocumented. Despite the volatile security situation and lack of access to land and livelihoods opportunities, 2015 has so far witnessed a significant increase compared to 2014 in spontaneous returns and forced deportations of Afghan refugees (80,724 as of June 2015). At the same time, increased conflict as well as natural disasters are likely to cause further significant displacement coupled with shrinking operational access for humanitarian actors. As of May 2015, there were an estimated 916,435 IDPs in Afghanistan (43,299 having been displaced in May alone). Floods, heavy snow, avalanche and mud slides have affected an estimated 15,699 households in 18 provinces this year. According to UNHCR, as a result of conflict in Waziristan, there are an estimated 205,113 Pakistan refugees mostly in Khost and Paktika in need of humanitarian assistance. Current key humanitarian priorities in Afghanistan include improving humanitarian access, responding to seasonal rains and floods, and providing support to the most vulnerable populations—internally displaced persons (IDPs), Afghan returnees and refugees.

NRC in Afghanistan

NRC in Afghanistan is providing protection and assistance to IDPs, returnees, refugees and host communities in Afghanistan through:

Education: In 2015, 74786 children, youth, teachers and education personnel benefited from the Education programme in Afghanistan, of whom almost half (46%) were girls and women.

ICLA: Over two million people have been assisted by NRC's ICLA programme since it started in Afghanistan in 2003. In the first 6 months of 2015, ICLA has directly assisted approximately 26,000 persons (46% women).

Shelter/WASH: In 2015 NRC will be assisting 1274 families (8918 individuals) through the construction of one and two room shelters. Each household will be provided with an individual latrine and receive hygiene training and a hygiene kit. The activities will be implemented in Nangarhar, Kabul, Kunduz, Laghman, Kunar and Khost provinces. The shelter team will also be constructing 14 classrooms (for 1008 children), 7 latrine blocks and provide safe drinking water in 10 schools in Herat province.

Emergency Response: The Emergency programme assisted 25,375 (12,180 male and 13,195 female) persons affected by conflict or natural disasters in 15 provinces across Afghanistan in 2015.

Regional Programming: The Afghan Uprooted People (AUP) is a regional programme funded by EuropeAid targeting refugees in Pakistan and Iran as well as returnees in Afghanistan. The overall programme objective is to establish and operationalize a regional approach to responding to displaced Afghans. The programme entails various activities in 3 areas; ICLA, education and livelihoods and in advocacy and coordination.

NRC priorities for 2015 and beyond:

With an overall objective of contributing to needs-based and integrated durable solutions and basic protection for displacement affected populations in Afghanistan, NRC will in 2015 strive to expand its coverage in the areas of highest need. While increasingly focusing on the emergency state across all the core competencies, NRC will also look to strengthening synergies between its programmes as well as regional cooperation with NRC in the region.

NRC core activities update in Afghanistan:

NRC is implementing activities in the areas of Education, ICLA, Shelter, WASH and Emergency Response in Northern, Eastern, Southern, Western and Central Afghanistan.

Education: The overall objective of NRC's Education programme is to ensure that the right to quality education and sustainable livelihood for Afghan children and youth is fulfilled, through providing vulnerable and displaced children and youth with access to quality education in a protective environment as well as sustainable livelihoods opportunities. At present time, the programme encompasses a Youth Education Pack (YEP) component, combining vocational training with literacy and life skills classes, Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP), Teacher Training, Early Childhood Development (ECD), and Education in Emergencies (EiE). As part of the EiE component, in 2015, NRC will continue working with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to increase the capacity of the Afghan government to respond to the urgent educational needs of children affected by conflict and natural disasters.

ICLA: NRC's ICLA programme aims to ensure that vulnerable displacement affected populations are able to claim and exercise their rights which are fundamental to reaching durable solutions. The programme employs statutory and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms in order to resolve cases related to Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights, civil documentation and other rights or social services of importance to displacement affected populations. ICLA beneficiaries receive direct assistance through community visits, Encashment Centre visits, community sensitization sessions, trainings, legal assistance, individual counseling and information packages. In 2015, the ICLA programme will roll out its newly revised training manuals and commission a study on civil documentation. Furthermore, the programme will conduct a number of events surrounding the launch of its study on Women's Housing, Land and Property Rights (WHLP) and continue to strive towards increasing the ratio of female beneficiaries across all its projects.

Shelter/WASH: The overall objective of NRC's Shelter programme (including WASH) is to ensure that displacement affected vulnerable families in Afghanistan (including refugees) are physically protected, enjoy access to education facilities, and benefit from reduced risks of morbidity and mortality due to water borne disease. To this end, the programme provides targeted beneficiaries with access to durable shelter solutions, depending on the status of land tenure, as well as education infrastructure, potable drinking water and household latrines. Shelters are primarily constructed through a community driven approach which is predominantly cash based. As a leading shelter organization, NRC has also been a chief advocate for the need to 'build back better' through the adoption of shelter designs incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures. In 2015, NRC is focusing on areas of large nexus of return and displacement (such as in Kunduz where continued fighting has been the source of large displacement) and also assisting Pakistani refugees in Khost province.

Emergency Response: NRC's Emergency Programme responds to the needs of both conflict-induced IDPs and those affected by natural disasters, tailoring each response to meet the needs of the most vulnerable including host community members. Emergency response has also expanded its scope in 2015 to cover needs of undocumented returnees in Eastern Afghanistan. Under this programme, targeted beneficiaries are provided with unconditional cash transfers (UCT), cash-for-shelter (CFS), cash-for-work (CFW) and non-food item (NFI) kits.

NRC Afghanistan plays a capacity building role to the wider humanitarian community in the implementation of cash based programming (CBP) through the work of a Cash Coordinator.

Through its ongoing Humanitarian Communications and Access project a number of initiatives are designed to promote greater understanding and acceptance of humanitarian work in Afghanistan, with the ultimate aim of increasing operational access in areas of high need for NRC and other organizations.