Response to Emergency: Pakistan Forced Returnees’ Crisis and the Herat Earthquake

From December 2023 – March 2024

**Pakistan Forced Returnees’ Crisis**

1. **BORDER MONITORING:**
   - Collaborate with UN, INGO, local partners, and women volunteers to monitor the Torkham border point, focusing on women and girls.

2. **WINTERIZATION CASH AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIS) ASSISTANCE:**

   2.1. **NANGARHAR:**
      - Provide NFI packages to returning women headed households at the Torkham border point and in Nangarhar.
      - Reached 197 women headed household out of 250, with 80 receiving shelter materials and hygiene packages.

   2.2. **KANDAHAR:**
      - Launch a safe-reintegration program focusing on returnees settled in Kandahar, their host communities, capacity development and start-up support.

**NANGARHAR**
- Winterization - cash assistance
- NFI for Pakistan returnees
- Mobilization of women community volunteers across the response
- Registration of women returnees (women headed households and those with disabilities) at the Torkham border and during MRAT assessments in return areas:
  - MRAT in Nangarhar, Laghman & Kunar provinces
  - Torkham border (via IP)
  - FGD conducted at Torkham

**KANDAHAR**
- Winterization - cash assistance
- Pakistan returnee response Kandahar – biometric registration
- Mobilization of women community volunteers across the response

**HERAT**
- Multipurpose cash assistance distribution - earthquake response
- Winterization - cash assistance
- MHPSS earthquake response
- NFI earthquake response
- Mobilization of women community volunteers across the response
- Women Volunteers mobilized for returnees and winterization assessments, and winterization distribution

**Beneficiaries’ Details**
- **HERAT:**
  - Women beneficiaries reached: 2,456
  - Beneficiaries reached benefiting: 8,621
  - Beneficiaries: 29,000 people

- **NANGARHAR:**
  - Women beneficiaries reached: 894
  - Beneficiaries reached benefiting: 3,297
  - Beneficiaries: 5,261 people

- **KANDAHAR:**
  - Women beneficiaries reached: 1,001
  - Beneficiaries reached benefiting: 1,278
  - Beneficiaries: 1,332 people

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1. Individual Counseling: With a total of 4 PSS (2 male, 2 female) a total of beneficiaries (423) individuals received PSS counseling with a breakdown of (263 women, 18 girls, 74 men, and 43 boys). Group Counseling: Total 13 group sessions, with a total of 112 beneficiaries (77 women 5 girls, and 30 boys), during the project duration.

2. 7 women volunteers and two women journalists
3. KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION:

- Organize focus group discussions with women returnees.
- Mobilize local female journalists to collect stories of affected women, communicated evidence-based data further to donors, humanitarian platforms.

4. GIHA WORKING GROUP’S GENDER ISSUES ALERTS:

- Develops two alerts highlighting gender issues in returnee response: 1. Gender update #1: Forced Returns from Pakistan 2. Gender update #2: Forced Returns from Pakistan
- Gender Engagement Training for Eastern Region: Strengthening NGOs and cluster Members in gender awareness and mitigation strategies for humanitarian response.

5. SUPPORT TO RETURNEES IN RETURN AREAS IN THE EASTERN REGION:

- OCHA led Rapid Needs Assessment
  - Covering 10 districts in Nangarhar, 8 districts in Kunar, 3 districts in Laghman.
- UN Women by GiHA WG reviews tools, deploys women volunteers, provide technical support to clusters and the working groups.

Response to the Herat Earthquake

1. MULTI-SECTORAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT:
   Support Female Enumerators in Earthquake Assessments
   - Ensure gender parity in teams.
   - Allow vulnerable women to voice needs.

2. CONSOLIDATED EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE PACKAGE:
   Women community volunteers mobilize multipurpose cash package for 1,000 earthquake-affected women and households.

3. SUPPORT TO WOMEN-COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS:
   - Facilitation of trainings for two rounds of UN Women’s multipurpose cash distributions (in November and December 2023)
   - Pilot phase of “Engaged!” initiative supported by GiHA WG and AAP WG.

4. SUPPORT WOMEN JOURNALISTS:
   - Document women’s experiences post-earthquakes.
   - Amplify women voices

5. GENDER CHAPTER AND INFORMATION ON NEEDS OF WOMEN INTEGRATED IN THE PDNA (PDNA):
   Detailed gender chapter to integrate with PDNA

6. GIHA WORKING GROUP IN WESTERN REGION:
   UN WOMEN AND WEFSO CO-CHAIR:
   - Led to over 40% of women enumerators participating in earthquake assessment.
   - Develop two gender alerts influencing response to earthquake:
     Afghanistan Gender Update #1: Earthquake in Herat Province (9 October 2023)
     Afghanistan Gender Update #2: Earthquake in Herat Province (19 October 2023)
   - “Engaged!” Initiative Pilot partnering with the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP): Mobilized 24 women focal points in earthquake-affected villages.