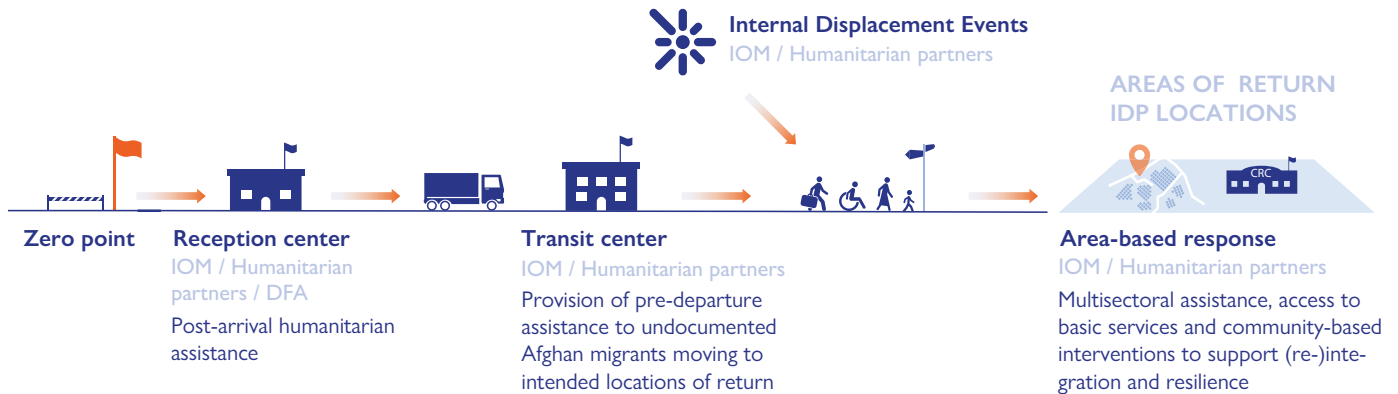


# BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND ENHANCING RETURNEE AND IDP (RE-)INTEGRATION THROUGH AREA-BASED RESPONSES



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) implements integrated area-based response (ABR) programming to address the impact of conflict, disasters, climate change, and development gaps on the vulnerable population in Afghanistan. By identifying and responding to the drivers of migration and displacement, IOM aims to facilitate voluntary, safe, and dignified local integration for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees, while enhancing the resilience of the broader population. From humanitarian to basic human needs assistance, IOM focuses on building community resilience to address root causes of migration and displacement.

IOM efforts are centered around evidence-based and participatory planning to deliver support to communities across targeted, high-need areas. IOM targets areas with high returnee and IDP populations based on data from its Displacement Tracking Matrix and Cross-Border Post Arrival Humanitarian Assistance programmes. In target locations, IOM supports a range of interventions, including income-generating activities for IDPs, returnees, and host communities; community infrastructure projects; provision of transitional shelters, latrines and WASH assistance; primary health care and MHPSS; and improving access to basic services in close coordination with other basic human needs actors.

Despite ongoing restrictions—including bans on Afghan women

working with NGOs and the UN—IOM remains committed to ensuring women’s meaningful engagement and participation as deemed culturally acceptable throughout its programming. IOM continues to operate its response in a principled manner under the guidance of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) framework for humanitarian operations in Afghanistan and the UNCT Joint Operating Principles.

IOM has implemented a pilot of its revised ABR approach in Chamtalla, Khogyani district, Nangarhar province and has launched programming in Dasht e Kahdestan, Injil district, Herat province. Additional locations are planned in the provinces of Zabul, Jawzjan, Sar-e-pul and Kunduz.

## PROCESS



### 1: Targeting

Evidence-based targeting of areas using available data on IDPs and returnees.



### 2: Profiling/Needs Assessments

Community assessments (key informant interviews, focus group discussions and household surveys) and mapping of existing services enable multi-sectoral analysis. Household and needs profiling also informs an active referral system.



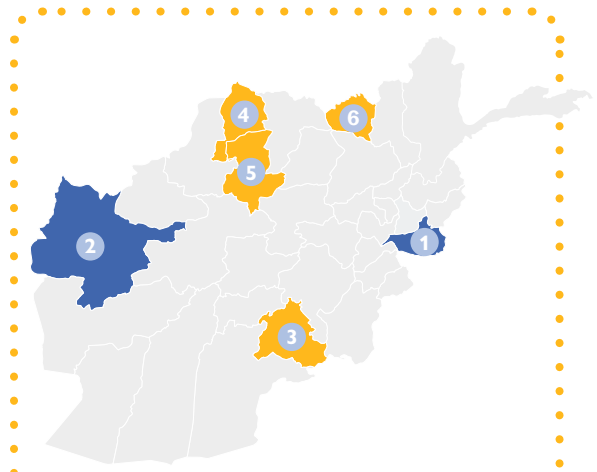
### 3: Programme Design

Community Action Plans (CAPs) are developed to drive the identification and implementation of actionable priorities. Sector-specific programme design based on identified needs, and further specific technical and operational assessments.



### 4: Multi-sectoral Assistance

Multi-sectoral assistance that links humanitarian emergency support to resilience building and durable solutions opportunities for supported communities.



## ACTIVE LOCATIONS

- 1 Nangarhar (Khogyani district)
- 2 Herat (Injil district)

## PLANNED LOCATIONS

- 3 Zabul (Qalat district)
- 4 Jawzjan (Aqcha district)
- 5 Sar-e-pul (Sar-e-pul City)
- 6 Kunduz (3 districts)

## KEY UPDATES FROM CHAMTALLA

KHOGYANI DISTRICT, NANGARHAR (JUNE - NOVEMBER 2024)



5,520 individuals reached with information by CCCM teams on PSEA, Awaaz and available services.



200 individuals targeted with apprenticeships, 50 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) targeted with asset replacement support and 400 employees to be supported with employment retention through MSMEs.



31 protection cases referred and assisted, and a women's rest area established at CRC.



600 men and 590 women assisted with primary healthcare and MHPSS services at the CRC.



375 households targeted with shelter repair or construction and 341 households targeted with household latrine repair or construction.



2 Basic Health Centres supported with new construction or rehabilitation efforts.

## COMMUNITY-CENTERED APPROACH AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

IOM places affected people at the center of its operations, promoting AAP and adapting programmes based on community feedback. Recognizing that affected individuals are key drivers of their own resilience and recovery, IOM operates feedback mechanisms through partnerships like Awaaz, manages community feedback helpdesks and hotlines, conducts focus group discussions, and supports media outreach. Participatory and inclusive planning workshops inform the development of locally-owned CAPs and strengthen communities' capacity to drive the identification and implementation of actionable priorities.

IOM is committed to respecting and safeguarding the rights and dignity of all individuals. The organization operates under the IASC Protection Policy in Humanitarian Action, ensuring interventions are sensitive to gender, age, ethnicity, and ability. Programmes are based on assessments that consider diverse vulnerabilities, applying a "do-no-harm" approach. Despite the unique challenges and restrictions faced by women and girls in Afghanistan, IOM's interventions are guided by the IOM Gender Equality Policy (2023), integrating gender analyses and gender-sensitive approaches. IOM focuses on identifying inequalities, incorporating protection and gender perspectives, and ensuring the participation of all affected populations, with specific attention to women and girls.

IOM establishes Community Resource Centres (CRCs) as integrated service delivery points for vulnerable groups, with a strong emphasis on active outreach and community-driven support. CRCs provide a space for communities to use and for partners, including UN agencies and NGOs, to assist individuals in accessing services and resources, enabling coordination and referrals to a range of options for both humanitarian and basic human needs assistance. Between June-November 2024, 97 individuals/households were assisted through referrals from the CRC to internal IOM units. Additionally, NRC reached 765 individuals with awareness raising on their information, counseling and legal assistance (ICLA) and referred 124 individuals for further assistance. BRAC assisted 350 women returnees with vocational trainings at the CRC, while HYSIO, with the support of UNICEF, established a child-friendly space and supported 1,630 girls and 613 boys.

## BUILDING RESILIENCE AND DRIVING SOLUTIONS

Based on the CAPs and detailed assessments, IOM designs solutions-enabling interventions to enhance community resilience and ensure that returnees and IDPs can meet their basic human needs, facilitating their sustainable recovery and (re-)integration among local communities. IOM provides both individual and household-level assistance and implements community-level interventions based on prioritized actions from the community, such as support to basic health centers, construction of check dams to reduce risks from disasters, establishment of child-friendly spaces and women's rest areas, and community-based protection assistance for vulnerable groups.

Vulnerable individuals and households are identified to receive assistance that links humanitarian emergency support to durable solutions opportunities. These include livelihoods assistance, such as apprenticeships, job placement and business start-up/expansion support; rehabilitation and construction of transitional shelters and latrines for households; winterization assistance; MHPSS services and assistance for acute and chronic health conditions of community members, including referrals to secondary and tertiary healthcare; and food assistance. Beneficiaries are identified and selected through referrals from CRCs as well as through sectoral assessments with harmonized vulnerability criteria. As part of this humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach, IOM supports a continuum of care for returnees from providing humanitarian assistance at the border to supporting their reintegration in areas of return, and actively monitors their progress towards achieving durable solutions.



An IOM CCCM community mobilizer delivers an awareness raising session for women on Awaaz, PSEA and available services. © IOM 2024



IOM's Health team provides health services as part of a health camp at the CRC. © IOM 2024



IOM Shelter and WASH teams conduct joint assessments for assistance in Chamtalla. © IOM 2024

IOM'S ABR ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY:

