



World Habitat Day Session on Afghanistan

Event date: 6 October 2025

Title:

[Empowering communities: Integrated approaches for durable solutions supporting displaced people and displacement affected communities in Afghanistan](#)

Partnering Organisations:

UN-Habitat with UNDP, UNHCR and IOM

Short paragraph describing the event

Afghanistan is facing a massive crisis with nearly 4 million people having returned or being repatriated from neighboring countries such as Iran and Pakistan in the last two years (since September 2023). The event will provide an overview of the situation in the country, the vulnerabilities and circumstances in the areas where most people (many of them in extremely vulnerable situations) have settled and will introduce a replicable approach – a joint project - for integrated and area-based programmes for re-integration and durable solutions.

On the project: Participatory Action for Integrated Developmental Assistance to Areas of Return - PAIDAAR:

The session will introduce a joint project, implemented by four UN agencies (UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR and IOM) and financially supported by the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA), which applies a gender-sensitive, socially cohesive and area-based approach, while taking the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change impacts into consideration. Returnees, Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and the local population in 3 districts of the Kunduz and Baghlan provinces will benefit from improved living and housing conditions, access to essential services and skills for advancing livelihoods.

To advance durable solutions, the project builds upon community-driven decision-making processes but also responds to locally tailored needs inc. mine action activities. Based on the specific circumstances in Afghanistan, the centrality of protection (including child protection) but also a specific focus to reduce vulnerabilities of women and girls are crucial. This initiative aims to stabilize the region, enhance the absorptive capacity of DACs, foster social cohesion, and support the durable (re)integration of returnees and IDPs in the communities they have chosen to settle.

Session outline:

- At the beginning of the session, images and short context videos, from all Participating UN Agencies (PUNOs) or the STFA can be shown so that the audience will better

understand the Afghanistan country context and the needs of displaced and displacement affected communities.

- Introduction words by RC Afghanistan (if possible) followed by a video statement of the UN-Habitat ED (August 2025, on the need to invest in re-integration) to underline the importance of joint and multi-dimensional approaches for re-integration.
- Speakers, from the four partnering UN agencies, the STFA and/or the RCO Durable Solutions team, will share their expertise on durable solutions, and how integrated, cross-sectoral approaches and interagency cooperation can foster coordination between actors. They will underline how participatory processes can be used to create an enabling environment for reintegration and how investments in community infrastructures, living conditions and livelihoods empower people to live in dignity and build strong, peaceful communities.
- Through interactive interventions (inc. quizzes, surveys, chat function, etc.) the audience will be engaged throughout the session and in a moderated discussion (Q&A).
- Before/after the session, the different partners will disseminate information on the event (and other activities on the WHD) via their social media channels.

Key visual



Women mapping risk areas in their neighborhoods during the Participatory Hazard Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (PHVCA), copyright @UN-Habitat