



World Habitat Day Session – Afghanistan

More information on the World Habitat Day and the different activities can be found [here](#)

Title:

Empowering communities: Integrated approaches for durable solutions supporting displaced people and displacement affected communities in Afghanistan.

Event date: 6 October 2025

Partnering Organisations:

UN-Habitat with STFA, RCO Secretariat for Durable Solutions, UNDP, UNHCR and IOM

Background

Afghanistan is facing a massive crisis with more than 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.

Introducing an integrated, area-based, multi-sectoral and multi-partner approach for advancing durable solutions in Afghanistan based on the example of the project “Participatory Action for Integrated Developmental Assistance to Areas of Return” – PAIDAAR

The session will introduce an integrated, area-based, multi-sectoral and multi-partner approach, explained through 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). The session will advocate for a gender-sensitive, socially cohesive and area-based approach, while taking the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change impacts into consideration.

The session will explain how Returnees, Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and the local population in 3 manteequas (districts) of the Kunduz and Baghlan provinces in Afghanistan will benefit from improved living and housing conditions, access to essential services and skills for advancing livelihoods through the project, while this approach can be upscaled and also used in similar settings (in Afghanistan and beyond).

To advance durable solutions, the approach implemented in this 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.

Agenda for the session:

	Intervention	Speaker & Organisation
1	Introduction and opening remarks inc. video message from UN-Habitat's ED and short overview of context in Afghanistan	Stephanie Loose, Country Programme Manager, UN-Habitat Afghanistan
2	Shaping a joint programme: The importance of bringing together different actors and fostering interagency cooperation through a multi-partner trust fund inc. a short (2 min) video on the impact of the STFA in Afghanistan	Hiroko Massey, Senior Fund Manager, Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA)
3	Integrated approaches for Durable Solutions: cross- sectoral and area-based approaches need different expertise An approach explained with a concrete example implemented in North-East Afghanistan	Representatives of the four implementing agencies for the PAIDAAR project
4	Strategic approaches for advancing and enabling Durable Solutions for displaced people in Afghanistan	Farhana Stocker, Senior Durable Solutions Advisor to the Resident Coordinators Office, UN Afghanistan
5	Questions and Answers & Closing	Moderated by Stephanie Loose

Dissemination and Outreach

- Before/after the session, the different partners will disseminate information on the event (and other activities on the WHD) via their social media channels.
- Flyer/invitation available for dissemination

