



UNHCR OCM Afghanistan, P.O.Box 3232, Kabul, Afghanistan

September 1st, 2003
Issue: 40

RETURN

Information Update

15 August – 1st September

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Security

Areas of Concern:

Factional tensions, abuse of human rights by various commanders, and criminality have been reported from various parts of the north-western provinces.

Sayeed Abad district (Sar-i-Pul province),

In Kanaq-I-Maliki village, there are reports of human rights abuses, including looting, forced recruitment and illegal taxation by unruly commanders. Similar abuses have been reported from some other villages in the district.

Kaldar district (Balk province):

It is reported that commanders forcibly recruit a large number of young men in all villages, and deploy them to Hayraton, a border town.

Mazar City:

There's a high number of gunmen in the city, with check-points set up by various factions, and there are reports of abuse against women, illegal taxation and widespread criminality.

106 Tajik families return to Bamyan centre:

Another 106 Tajik IDPs recently returned to Bamyan. Only a very small number of Internally displaced persons originating from Bamyan remain in Pul-i-Khumri.

Road Safety: Road robberies are a major security problem for returnees from both Pakistan and Iran. Returnees should exercise particular caution when travelling on the following roads:



- The road from Kunduz city to Shirkhan border.
- Route from Hirat to Farah and Kandahar (Shindand to Dilaram)
- Roads in the districts of Farsi, Gulistan and Ghormach (route to Bala Morghab)
- Main road from Nili to Tirinkut, Uruzgan
- Road between Ghazni centre and Malistan district and on connecting road between Malistan and Nawur.
- The road from Ghazni to Kabul, especially in Saalar area of Said Abad district of Maidan/Wardak province.
- Main road between Qalat and Ghazni.
- The road linking Qalat to Lashkargah, Helmand Province.

The Afghan and Coalition forces have established joint check-posts on the main Kandahar-Spin Boldak road to inspect all traffic for security purposes.

Note: All returnees are advised NOT to travel during the night hours, and should seek shelter in one of the major settlements.

UNHCR Voluntary Repatriation –2003

Returnees have the free choice of either returning to their village (location of origin) or to any other place in Afghanistan – but not to the IDP camps.

Iris Validation Centres: All refugees returning from Pakistan to Afghanistan with **UNHCR** assistance will have to go through an iris machine, a computer-based technology that examines the eye and can detect if someone has been tested before. The machine does not take the picture of the eye, but registers a number that's similar to fingerprint. Iris Recognition Centres are located at **Hayatabad** in **Peshawar**, **Alizai** in **Kurram Agency, Balochistan** (in **Baleli**), and in **Khost** in Afghanistan.

Note: Chaman Iris Recognition Centre is closed as of August 31st, 2003.

Returnees who want to receive the **UNHCR** assistance package have to go through the Iris screening, otherwise they will not receive their entitlements. Returnees are advised to have their **VRFs** with them while travelling in the host country and Afghanistan. Anyone who is discovered to have received assistance before will not receive assistance.

Single returnees will have to join other single returnees or families to make a minimum distribution unit.

Note: The entire family will be checked against the VRFs at the encashment centre.

Returnees should not approach just any Distribution Centre, but only the one marked on their VRFs, otherwise they will not receive assistance.



Transport Assistance: Returnees will receive cash assistance at the following encashment centres in Afghanistan located in **Pul-I-Charkhi, Ghazni, Mohmand Dara, Zaranj, Daman, Mazar-I-Sharif, Pul-I-Khumri, Kunduz, Herat, Gardez and Khost**. The DC's in **Mazar and Kunduz** are assisting only the returnees from the Central Asian republics – those returning to northern provinces (**Kunduz, Takhar, Badakhshan, Samangan, Balkh, Jawzjan**, etc) should receive their entitlements at the first EC or in **Pul-I-Khumri**.

Note: Please be advised that the working hours at **Pul-I-Charkhi** encashment centre is from 0800 in the morning to 1400 in the afternoon. The returnees arriving after 1400 hrs. will not receive their entitlement on that day, and the next day only the head of the household should go to the centre to receive the assistance (cash, food and non-food items).

Note: Pul-e-Charkhi encashment centre will be closed on Saturdays as of August 11, 2003.

Properly filled, signed and stamped VRFs will be valid for seven days for returnees from both Iran and Pakistan; for the returnees from Pakistan, from the day they leave the Iris Scan Centre, and for returnees from Iran, from the day they leave the registration centre, and arrive at the encashment centre inside Afghanistan.

Depending on final destination in Afghanistan, each family member will receive between 3-30 Dollars, and is limited to 7 persons per family. Children under 12 months of age (less than one year) will receive only half of the amount given to other members of the family. Returnees from Karachi and Lahore will receive an additional 5 dollars per person at the first encashment centre.

Returnees from camps in Pakistan will receive 5 dollars per family in addition to the established amount if they transport construction material only from their dismantled houses. The transportation of construction material will be certified by a special note made on the VRF at the Registration point in Pakistan

Note: The Returnees' personal belongings are exempt from all customs duties. But please note that returnees neither can take commercial amounts of any item nor can they export the governments proscribed items. Returnees should also advise their truck drivers not to carry business goods on returnee trucks in order to avoid delay at the border and undesired consequences at the customs.

Working Days: The UNHCR-assisted repatriation operation in Pakistan will run from Sunday to Thursday. There will be no UNHCR-assisted repatriation on Friday and Saturday. In Iran, the operation will run from Saturday to Thursday. There will be no operation on Friday.

Note: All refugee students must have their school certificates stamped by Afghan embassies/consulates before returning to Afghanistan. According to a directive issued by the Afghanistan Foreign Ministry its missions in the region they should NOT charge validation/stamping fees on academic certificates of repatriating Afghan students. Those graduates who want to work, as teachers in Afghanistan should also have their documents stamped by Afghan embassies/consulates.



Italy Supports Return Programme for Afghan Lawyers: IOM's programme to encourage Afghan legal professionals to return home to participate in the rebuilding of Afghanistan's legal system has received a Euro 300,000 boost from the Italian government.

The Italian-funded legal programme is part of IOM's wider Return of Qualified Afghans (RQA) initiative, which has already helped some 484 Afghan professionals to return home to participate in the rebuilding of their country's shattered infrastructure.

The legal programme, which focuses on rebuilding the judiciary, has already helped 20 Afghan lawyers to return from Australia, Austria, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, United Kingdom and the USA to jobs in the Ministry of Justice, the President's Office, the Chief Prosecutor's Office, the Supreme Court and other ministries. Another 13 will take up posts shortly.

The RQA database matches the skills of Afghan Diaspora professional candidates with job vacancies in Afghanistan. The programme provides return travel and helps to reintegrate candidates by providing installation grants, special incentives for female candidates, and monthly salary supplements.

Information on the *AMAYESH* Process - Iran:

The purpose of the Amayesh process, which is currently underway throughout Iran, is to issue new ID-cards to all those Afghans who were registered in the 2001 registration exercise and at the time were issued with temporary registration slips. Undocumented or Afghans who were not registered in 2001 are not eligible to get the new cards.

The Amayesh process is taking place over a 3 months period from June 21 to September 22, 2003. The fee for registration of each person (over 2 years old) is 50,500 RIs (app 6 USD).

The new Amayesh documents are entitled: **Exit Travel Permit**. However, such documents are not valid for travelling back to Afghanistan and returnees should surrender their Exit Travel Permits and receive exit LPs issued for a specific border exit point.

The validity of the Exit Travel Permit is for 3 months for singles (male and female) and 4-6 months for married Afghans depending on their area of residence. The Permits may be renewed but the details of the renewal process are yet to be announced.

All government services such as education, health care, assisted repatriation, travel, etc., would be possible only if the person is holding an Amayesh card.

Non-Neighboring Countries: Under its Assisted Voluntary Return Programme (AVR), IOM assists Afghan returnees from Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and Australia with their return, their reception and reintegration in Afghanistan.

This includes the supervision of transit assistance in Dubai, reception at Kabul airport (border and customs processing assistance, mine awareness information, basic medical assessment, and preliminary information): personal baggage/cargo storage and collection arrangements, overnight accommodation and onward internal transportation provisions.



IOM's Information Counseling and Referral Services Programme (ICRS) provides returnees with information and with referrals relevant to their individual reintegration needs such as employment opportunities, vocational & management training, educational opportunities, micro, small enterprise start-up, on the job training, possibilities for returnees' inclusion in ongoing community based humanitarian and reconstruction programmes and other relevant programmes in Afghanistan.

The Jangalak Training Center (JTC) has been rehabilitated to provide accommodation after the arrival in Kabul and as a center for vocational training. The vocational training includes training in carpentry, masonry, electrical works & wiring, plumbing, welding, and other essential occupations such as languages and computer skills.

Note: For further information about IOM programmes, please contact IOM Kabul (iomkabul@iomkabul.net) or visit the IOM website www.iom.int to find out whether a return programme operates in your country of asylum.

Messages to women:

- 1- The Ministry of Public Health has urgent need of women health professionals in all provinces of the country. Women with interest in professional training as nurses, midwives and community health workers are advised to register their interest with Departments of Public Health or of Women's Affairs at provincial level, so that they can be contacted when opportunities arise.
- 2- Tetanus (TT) vaccination campaign for women between 15 – 45 years of age is ongoing inside Afghanistan. All women returnees who have been vaccinated against TT are advised to keep the records - before they return.
- 3- Refugee Women are advised to seek professional training in safe delivery, early infant care, nutrition, and hygiene, 'first aid', emergency medical care, or as a midwife/auxiliary nurse.
- 4- They are advised to bring educational certificates, including courses they have taken.
- 5- Single women should link with a family for the journey and identify themselves immediately on arrival.

Shelter:

To help returnees in their initial phase of reintegration, the UNHCR is providing shelter for 60,000 families in 2003. The shelter project is NOT for every returnee family but only for the most vulnerable, who have been identified from returning IDPs and refugees, as well as the returnee receiving communities. The beneficiaries are selected with the help of local Shuras, local authorities and UNHCR partners. They have to build the shelter on their own land or property, in their places of origin. Shelter (a standard two-room, one corridor and one latrine unit) programme is self-help assistance, and while building material (timbers, lintels, doors, windows and tool kits) is provided by UNHCR, the beneficiaries are responsible for the construction work. The recipients are also entitled to a sum of money or food for work for standard and domed type shelters.

Important Message: Refugees prior to their voluntary return should note that:

- 1- Shelter programme is only for the most vulnerable.



- 2- UNHCR shelter programme is not for every returnee family
- 3- The conditions for benefiting from the shelter project are; for the returnees to be in their village of origin, be identified through the help of local shuras and UNHCR partners, and to build the shelter on their own land or property.

Bamyan Province

Introduction:

Bamyan City is the capital of Bamyan province situated in the central region of Afghanistan. Historically, Bamyan was a rich cultural and commercial center due to its strategic location on the silk road in the 3rd century. Bamyan was a major center of Buddhism, famous for its monumental Buddha statues erected between the 3rd and 5th centuries. The statues were destroyed by the Taliban on 10th March 2001.

Since the 11th century, Islam has been the main religion, and the majority of its inhabitants, Hazaras, belong to the Shia sect of Islam. The province consists of 7 districts that are Bamyan, Saighan, Yakawlang, Waras, Shibar, Kahmard and Panjao. Bamyan City is located 236 kilometers from the capital Kabul via Shibar Pass and 180 Km through Haji Gak. According to the Governor of Bamyan Province, Mohammad Rahim Ali Yar, the present population of Bamyan province is 600 000, and around 400,000 more are refugees. Apart from the Hazaras, Tajiks and Pashtoons also live in this province who have long settled there and some of them hold government posts.

The Hezbi Wahdat, led by Mr. Khalili, is the main political party, though there are Jamiat and Harakat parties as well, among which the government posts have been divided.

Security:

The authorities of Bamyan City have made utmost efforts to ensure the security for the people and to encourage the refugees and IDPs to return. They have moved all irresponsible militia groups out of the city and the security is handed over to police, that is the only force presently in charge of security maintenance in the province. The general security situation in the Province is reportedly stable.

There is a shura, called "Return Shura", consisting of representatives from the government (MoRR, MoJ, MoWA), UNHCR, and Afghan Human Rights Commission, and has been tasked with removing obstacles to return and solve problems facing returnees. The court, intelligence police forces and the judicial department have been reactivated to look after the problems in the city and surrounding districts, but due to having no branch offices in some remote districts, their cases are referred to the centre of the province.

According to Mr. Ali Yar, there is a need for professional police officers in the province because apart from a few of them the rest are un-trained with very little knowledge. The authorities are trying to provide some training for the police with the help of Ministry of Interior. So far, the



Ministry has provided two vehicles and some military uniforms to the police force in Bamyan province.

Besides, there are cultural associations as well as consultation gatherings twice a month in which people in an open atmosphere express their views and discuss their problems. According to the governor, there is a plan to install some complaint boxes in various corners of the city in order to collect people's views/complaints on various issues.

Aid Agencies:

There are 6 UN agencies and 12 National and International NGOs functioning in Bamyan Province carrying out various assistance activities and providing aid to the communities of Bamyan's various districts. The assistance includes provisions of agricultural tools and seeds, health facilities through establishing health centers and clinics, shelter construction and different rehabilitation activities.

National Army and Disarmament:

The disarmament process has not yet started, though a site has been selected for the administrative work and the construction work has started. The people of Bamyan fully support the DDR (Demobilisation, Disarmament and Rehabilitation) process.

The authorities say that because only a few young men were sent to Kabul for military training and because they were given very small and unsatisfactory roles in the forming of the National Army, officers and soldiers have been discouraged to join the National Army.

Education:

Higher Education: The administrative arrangements for the opening of Bamyan University is expected to be completed before the next academic year, early next year, with an initial number of nearly 300 students. Discussions on which departments should be created in the university are currently underway with the Minister of Higher Education in Kabul.

Schools: There are 160 official and 40 unofficial schools in Bamyan Province, of which 80 schools have no buildings and the rest have very old buildings built twenty years ago that are in need of complete rehabilitation. Some aid agencies and the communities themselves rehabilitated and run the schools, with help from MoE, including teacher training programmes.

According to Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Muhibi, head of Bamyan Education Department, there are 30 schools in Bamyan City including 4 high schools (2 for boys and 2 for girls), and 26 elementary and secondary schools. The current number of schools is not enough and 5 more schools are needed in the city. The matter is currently under discussion with the Ministry of Education for approval. The total number of the students in Bamyan is around 60 000 taught by 1734 teachers. Schools lack chairs, desks, books, floor cover, etc., and the teachers' salary is low and irregularly paid.

The people in the province attach a great deal of importance to the education of their children, and the Governor of Bamyan says the current education situation may be a factor in preventing



refugees to return in big numbers, especially those who have access to modern educational institutions in exile.

Health:

The healthcare situation in the center of Bamyan is better than the districts. The international organizations active in health sector are trying to provide the Bamyan hospital with necessary equipment and other needs. The Agha Khan Foundation has been in discussion with MoPH (Ministry of Public Health) in Kabul to start its efforts in Bamyan by the end of October to improve health facilities in the province.

At present, there is one hospital and four clinics in Bamyan City, run by MSF, IMC and Ibnesina. The Bamyan hospital has Surgical, Pediatrics, Obstetric and Gynecology and Tuberculosis wards. An X ray machine by ICRC and a laboratory by Lepco have been donated to the hospital. The hospital has the capacity for 20 in-patients in various wards, and 7 patients at Tuberculosis ward. There are five male and one female doctors, two midwives, three female and 16 male nurses. There is also a team of 7 vaccinators at the hospital. The measles campaign was completed throughout the province a month ago by MoPH and aid agencies. The hospital receives up to 250 cases every day. The salaries of the medical staff are paid by the NGOs on monthly basis and by the government every three months.

Water and Agriculture:

Agriculture and animal husbandry is the main source of livelihood in Bamyan Province. Usually, dairy products are sold, and wool is used for weaving carpets and kilims. But the past three years of drought has severely affected agriculture and animals and has stopped handicraft activities. The water for agriculture comes from rivers and lakes, but the drinking water is used from wells. This year, there is plenty of water in the city and in districts such as Yakawlang, Panjao and Waras that could create great opportunities for agricultural development.

Electricity:

There is no electricity in the province despite the potentials, which, local authorities say if tapped could provide power to the whole province. According to the Governor, the government has started working on a pilot project of a small power network, and is determined to plan bigger projects if a positive result is achieved. At the moment some people use power generators and some have set up small power networks using water resources. The issue of power plants has been discussed with international organisations and donors, who have promised to cooperate in this field. Mr. Ali Yar says there are Afghans who have money and that Bamyan authorities are trying to persuade them to return and invest in these projects. He says Bamyan with its good geographical location and resources has the right conditions for development.

Refugees and IDPS:

The return of the refugees who had left their homes in Bamyan Province during the years of conflict and drought, has been slower and smaller than expected. The total number of returnees was 6,544 in 2002, and 2,211 in 2003. However, nearly 80 percent of IDPs who had fled the province during the Taliban government and because of drought have returned to their places of origin, and the rest have not yet returned because they have jobs and better facilities in some other areas they were displaced to, such as Kabul, Mazar and other northern cities.



The main impediments to the return of refugees are lack of employment and shelter, and inadequate education and health facilities. The Governor's message to the refugees is that they should return and take part in the reconstruction of their country despite the current difficulties. He says 'we expect those educated Afghan refugees to come back and create higher standards of education at schools and universities, and better conditions of life for their people.

In order to solve the shelter problem for the landless, the authorities are trying to plan the creation of some townships in the province, the first expected to be planned in the course of the current year.

Shelter:

UNHCR provided 2,000 shelters in 2002, (of the 7,200 allocated to the province) and 500 shelters so far this year. Besides, the authorities are in the process of building shelters to relocate some of the landless families who live in caves. Following a survey, 105 families were identified as eligible for shelter. A site had been identified for the rest of the cave population, but unluckily due to the water problem the plan was postponed and is on hold until assistance from willing donor agencies has been obtained. The Minister of RRD (Rural Rehabilitation and Development) during his recent visit to Bamyan observed the problem and allocated a specific budget, which is hoped will solve the problem once it's materialised.

Transportation:

The city transportation system is one of the initiatives of the current year, with 4 buses provided by the Ministry of Transportation which cover the city and some close districts. Due to bad unpaved roads the buses can't travel to most of the districts. Flying coaches take passengers from Bamyan City to the remote districts of the province, charging different fares according to the distance. For example, a passenger travelling to Yakawlang is charged 100 Afghanis, but the rest of the districts don't have direct transport line and travellers have to team up to hire a Flying Coach for 1000 Afs to Saighan, 2000 Afs to Panjao and 2500 Afs to Waras districts.

Telephone: There is no telephone network in the province.

Roads:

The roads between Bamyan City and the districts, which had been completely destroyed, are open but need rehabilitation. The government and aid agencies have plans for road and bridge construction projects in and around the province. A number of contracts from private companies are awaiting approval. The most important project is the rehabilitation of Kabul-Bamyan highway, which has been postponed for another year due to the approaching winter and freezing season in the province which would prevent the smooth progress of the construction work.

There are some districts such as Waras and Panjao, where there are pockets of people with no access to roads connecting them to the capital city.

Women:

The Directorate of Women's Affairs is active in Bamyan, organising vocational training in carpet weaving, tailoring and embroidery, with technical and financial support of some NGOs and UN



agencies. There are a number of vulnerable women in Bamyan who need to get training to earn for the survival of their families. There are also literacy courses for women in some villages. There is a policy in the province of giving priority to girls schools and literacy courses for women. The women in the province used to engage in kilim and carpet weaving, but because of the drought and loss of animals there is little wool available for such activities.

Media:

For the time being there is a monthly publication called “Bamyan Monthly Publication”, and the authorities are trying to set up a printing house for publishing newspapers.

Bamyan had a state radio station in the past which has not been operational for a long time. The people in Bamyan listen to the BBC programs on FM only. On 16th August the Minister of Information and Culture inaugurated a new radio station in Bamyan City broadcasting on 89.1 FM. The radio station installed by the Internews, with financial support of USAID will reach more than 50,000 people in Bamyan City and its surrounding districts.

Food Items:

Different food items, including vegetables imported from Kabul, are available in the city, but sometimes not sufficient for the entire population of the city and districts. Seven kilos of wheat cost 150 Afs, a bread 4 Afs, a kilo of cooking oil 45 Afs, a kilo of Sugar 22 Afs, Tea 35-45 Afs per kilo, beef 100 Afs and mutton 120 Afs per kilo.

Yakawlang District of Bamyan Province:

According to Mr. Omid the District Administrator of Yakawlang, the security situation in the district is stable. The total population of the district is nearly 100,000, half of whom were either refugees or IDPs. Most of the refugee families pay visits to the district and after assessing the situation, decide whether to return to the country of asylum or return home. The reasons identified for not returning are lack of employment, inadequate education and health facilities, and no guarantee of future situation.

Education: There are 33 schools in the district, of which 3 are high schools. The schools have been provided with wells of drinking water by aid agencies. There are not enough schools and the people want more schools for both boys and girls.

Health: There is one hospital and five clinics in the district. These health centers provide medicines to the patients but lack professional personnel, medicines and equipment. More health centers are needed.

Water: The people use well water, rivers, springs and lakes. The water from some wells are not potable, and an NGO has started digging shallow wells in and around the district that will provide the population with safe drinking water.

People’s occupations: People are busy in agriculture and animal husbandry, which were badly affected due to the drought in the past few years. Women used to weave kilims, but now are not getting enough wool to continue.



Panjao District:

According to Mr. Abdul Rahim, the Deputy District Administrator in Panjao, the general security situation of the district is calm and stable with no major security concerns.

The population of the district reaches 120,000, of which 80,000 live in the district, and 40,000 are refugees in Iran and some in Pakistan. Since the beginning of the UNHCR repatriation operation, almost 2,000 families have returned to the district, but some people, including some returnees, have been displaced to Kabul, Ghazni and Mazar due to economic problems and lack of job opportunities.

Education: There are 22 schools (15 primary and secondary schools, and 7 high schools; 2 for girls and 5 for boys). According to the local authorities there is a need for 30 more schools in the district. The buildings of these schools are not useable, as there has been no assistance to the education system in the district, and the people themselves are supporting the existing schools.

Health: There are two clinics set up by Lepco and MSF. More clinics and medicine are needed.

Agriculture and animal husbandry: The people of the district mainly work in agriculture, animal husbandry and weaving kilims, which have been affected by the drought. Almost 80 percent of the people don't have land and have to work as labourers for landlords. There has been more water in the district this year, creating some hope for future. People use wells and springs for drinking water, and rivers for agriculture.

There are 8 aid agencies supporting the health sector, agriculture, education and construction of roads in the district.

Waras District:

According to Mr. Mahmoodi, the District Administrator of Waras, the security situation in this district is quite stable and the people have no major security concerns.

This remote district has a population of 150,000, of which 4,000 families are still refugees. So far, only 20 families have returned to Waras district. Over 50 families have been displaced from Shahrستان to this district, and have been living here for the past three years.

The reason for low return is due to lack of job opportunities and shelter. Almost 30 percent of the people have land. There is no government land in Waras district to be distributed to the homeless population.

Education: There are 50 schools, 40 of them without proper buildings. The students study under the trees and on the hillsides. 72 schools are needed for girls and boys in the district.

Health: There are only two clinics supported by Lepco and MSF for the whole population of Waras. The district is in need of more clinics, medical equipment for emergency cases, and professional medical staff.



Due to bad conditions of the roads, there are no cars, and the patients are taken to the clinics mainly by donkeys, that cause loss of life.

Agriculture and Animal Husbandry: Agriculture, animal husbandry and Kilim weaving are the main occupation of the population in this district which have been severely affected by drought.

Having plenty of water this year, the people plan to start growing saplings with support from the aid agencies. More than 60 percent of the people don't have land, and they have to work for landlords. Many people do not have shelter and live on the farms and working fields.

The people are now preparing for the winter, collecting firewood (bushes) from the mountains and hills. Almost 700 families received coal and stoves distributed by UNHCR, UNAMA and other agencies under the winterisation program last year.

World Bank provides US\$1.6 million towards School Development in Bamyan:

In Bamyan Province three new schools will be constructed and 16 others will be rehabilitated in the next 18 months. In addition, more than 42,000 primary and secondary school students will receive learning material packages, while some 1,200 teachers in the province will undergo capacity building and training.

This is all possible due to a project spearheaded by the Ministry of Education (MoE) called, "Assistance Community Grant for School Development", which is being funded by the World Bank with US\$1.6 million. The project started in Bamyan province on 21 August 2003.

UNHCR/BBC Radio Programme: There is a joint BBC/UNHCR radio programme specifically aimed at Afghan refugees, IDPs and returnees. The programme deals with the situation in Afghanistan, including security, development activities of the Afghan government, United Nations and other aid agencies, and the difficulties that the Afghans, especially returnees, are facing. The BBC radio programme is part of UNHCR's efforts to provide an accurate account of the situation in Afghanistan to those wishing to return home, and to offer a forum for a wider debate on all aspects of repatriation and reintegration.

The programme is broadcast from Saturday to Wednesday (5 Days a week):

- 1st edition: 0730 to 800 GMT = 1100 to 1130 Iran time, 1200 to 1230 Afghan time, and 1230 to 1300 Pakistan time.
- 2nd edition: 12.00 to 1230 GMT = 1530 to 1600 Iran time, 1630 to 1700 Afghan time and 1700 to 1730 Pakistan time.

The programmes are broadcast on Short wave frequencies of 15420 kHz (19-meter band, and 17870 kHz (16-meter band).



The programme has a section for the listeners' letters. If you have any comments or questions please write to the following addresses. The BBC will include them in the programme:

- Afghanistan: BBC, Post Box No. 1, Central Post Office, Kabul, Afghanistan.
- Pakistan: BBC, Post Box 255, University Town, Peshawar, Pakistan.
- Iran: UNHCR (BBC) – P.O.Box No. 91775 – 1876, Mashhad, Iran.

UNHCR/ARTV Radio Programme: UNHCR has also a joint radio programme with Afghanistan Radio and TV, "Coming Home", as part of its mass Information efforts. The programme is broadcast on Sundays and Fridays (2 days a week) at 9:00pm for 30 minutes in Dari and Pashto languages.

For More Information Contact

Abdul Qayyum Karim on (0093) 07028056, E-mail: karimaq@unhcr.org