



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

Free of Charge

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RETURN

Information Update

15 - 31 July 2004

ADVICE FOR CIRCULATION: This update is intended for Afghans abroad, as well as those displaced inside their country, to help them make an informed choice about returning to their homes. It is a public document and should be circulated as widely as possible.

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1. ANNOUNCEMENTS TO RETURNEES

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

Note on Religion: In response to queries received from prospective returnees, UNHCR reminds that Afghanistan is a Muslim State and the Constitution states that "The religion of Afghanistan is the sacred religion of Islam" and "In Afghanistan; no law can be contrary to the sacred religion of Islam and the values of this constitution." The constitution also adds that "followers of other religions are free to perform their religion ceremonies within the limits of the provisions of law".

- The Ministry of Public Works has announced that the Salang tunnel will be closed during the day from 07:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs until September 2004 because of the reconstruction of the road.
- Returnees are advised to ensure that their VRFs are correctly filled out in the country of asylum, as VRFs will not be issued or changed in Afghanistan.
- The returnees' personal belongings are exempt from all customs duties. But please note that returnees can take neither commercial amounts of any item nor can they export government-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. Returnees are advised to ensure the truck is empty when they begin loading their belongings.

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

Note on Land: UNHCR has learned about the existence of fraudulent schemes which extract money from refugees in return for a promise to get them government land for housing. As far as UNHCR is aware there is at present no legitimate government programme to distribute land. The general freeze on land distribution ordered by the President's decree is still enforced. UNHCR would like to advise refugees not to pay any money for fraudulent land schemes and to check the authenticity of any land scheme with the Representatives of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation in Pakistan and Iran or with UNHCR offices. UNHCR will therefore not be able to provide shelter assistance to refugees who acquire land under such schemes.

2. VOTER REGISTRATION FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES IN IRAN AND PAKISTAN

Following two separate agreements with the governments of Iran and Pakistan, Afghans who live in these countries can participate in the process to elect a president on 9 October 2004.

On 20 July 2004, the Governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan along with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in which the two countries and the UN agreed to facilitate and support the organisation of out of country voter registration in Pakistan.

On 12 July 2004, the Governments of Iran and Afghanistan and UNAMA signed a similar MOU to facilitate and support out of country voting for Afghans in Iran. Those Afghans in Iran who have Identification Cards can vote in the upcoming election. Afghans in Iran had already gone through the registration exercise in 2003 and were issued identification cards.

In accordance with the rules and regulations of the Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB) the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) will organise and implement the electoral

processes in both countries. The procedures of voter registration for Afghans in Iran and Pakistan will be announced in near future.

3. IRAN TO CONSTRUCT LIBRARIES IN THE CAPITAL OF AFGHANISTAN

An agreement was signed between Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan and the Administrative Deputy to the Ministry of Education on construction of libraries in 10 schools in Kabul, on 5 July 2004. Iran has allocated \$25,000 (750,000Afs) for the construction of libraries and 10,000 volumes of books. The schools selected by the Ministry of Education will be surveyed to identify proper places for the libraries and then construction of the libraries will start in the near future. The libraries would be provided with essential library materials, shelves, computers, chairs and desks. There would be poetry, fiction, geography, history, natural sciences and various other kinds of scientific books for children and youth available at the libraries by the end of 2004.

4. MICROFINANCE PROJECTS IN AFGHANISTAN

The main objective of the Microfinance projects is to enable the poor, disadvantaged, widows, orphans, returnees, IDPs and those professionals who have no possibility of establishing their own businesses and income generation activities to achieve financial self-reliance and sustainability.

The beneficiaries for loans are selected by the local Shuras. Priority is given to the poorest of the poor, returnees and widows and the vulnerable skilled people such as carpenters, butchers, shoe makers, masons, shopkeeper and mechanics. Applicants are required to have either a business or be professionals to be eligible for the selection.

The loans are mostly given for a period between three months to one year. Loans are given either in cash or in kind. They should apply to receive loans in groups or individually.

Those selected for loans are supposed to introduce some relatives and friends with a good income as guarantor for returning loans.

Central Region

Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA): Currently, AREA is providing vulnerable people with Microfinance projects in districts no. 1, 5 and 8 of Kabul City which are explained below:

- AREA's "Women Support Programme" funded by Canada Fund started in January 2001 and completed in February 2004 in district no.1. 243 women benefited from loans

between \$200-\$300 (10,000 – 15,000Afs) for carpet weaving, embroidery, tailoring, handicrafts etc. The new projects in this district will start soon.

- AREA is implementing 35 Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) funded Microfinance projects in district no.5 where 527 men and 376 women benefit from joint businesses such as metallurgy, carpentry, bag making, leather weaving, graining salt, poultry farms and animal husbandry.
- The first phase of the Microfinance projects funded by a Swedish donor in district no.8 started in July 1999 and completed in February 2004. 586 men and 44 women benefited from 33 income generation projects in this district. According to AREA officials, the beneficiaries of these projects are returnees and IDPs.

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC- Afghanistan):

Kabul Province: BRAC- Afghanistan started its Microfinance projects funded by the World Bank in July 2002 in Kabul City. There are eight branches of this agency currently providing loans to women, poor and disabled by providing them with loans between \$80 – 200 (4,000 - 10,000Afs). According to this agency's officials, the beneficiaries are supposed to reimburse the money within a year on monthly basis. Since 2002, this agency has provided 10,435 people with loans.

Parwan province: BRAC - Afghanistan has provided 3,000 people with loans in Parwan province since 2002.

The loans are between \$120 – 200 (6,000-10,000 Afs) according to the type of activity such as carpet weaving and carpentry and should be reimbursed within a year time on a monthly basis.

Kapisa Province: BRAC – Afghanistan has provided 1,200 people with loans in three districts of Kapisa province since 2003. The loans are between \$80 – 100 (4,000-5,000Afs) in the first year and then increase to \$120 – 160 (6,000-9,000Afs) according to the type of activity. The loans should be reimbursed within a year on a monthly basis.

Mercy Corps: In late April 2003, Mercy Corps established Ariana Financial Services Group (AFSG), a Microfinance institution in Kabul City.

AFSG offers loan services to both female and male applicants throughout the 18 districts of Kabul City. AFSG provides loans to the groups of four to eight people with a minimum of 16 years of age and six months of business experience. AFSG currently services over 3,200 clients.

The first loan to each member of a group is maximum \$150 (7,500Afs) which is supposed to be reimbursed within 3-8 months on monthly basis. The second loan is maximum \$440 (22,000Afs) to each member of the group who has successfully reimbursed the first loan. The second loan is expected to be returned within 3-12 months on monthly basis. The third and the final loan is maximum \$960 (48,000Afs) to be reimbursed within 3-18 months.

Agha Khan MicroFinance Bank (AKMFB): The Microfinance projects of Agha Khan Microfinance Bank started in September 2002. The projects have covered districts no. 3, 4, 10 and 15 of Kabul City. The loans to individuals range between \$500 - 3,000 (25,000 – 150,000Afs) and those in groups receive \$100-\$500 (5,000 – 25,000Afs) each. The loans are to be reimbursed within a year, on a monthly basis.

According to the AKMFB's officials, since the beginning of these projects up to May 2004, a total of 2,700 people have benefited from these loans. The bank is planning to cover all districts of Kabul City and other provinces in early 2005.

According to this agency, returnees, IDPs and vulnerable people have benefited from these loans and once they have paid off the first loans, the beneficiaries can receive support for a second and third time.

Sources of information: AREA, BRAC - Afghanistan, Care International, Mercy Corps and Agha Khan MicroFinance Bank.

Northern Region

World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU): WOCCU in close cooperation with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and partnership with MISFA has started working in Mazar-i-Sharif, Shiberghan City of Jawzjan and Pul-i-Khumri in Baghlan province.

Its long term objective is to organise 15 credit unions in five years (three credit unions each year) in order to modernise and improve the agricultural production, marketing systems and support the market vendors and business.

A Credit Union is a financial cooperative and gives services like savings and loans. Anyone can join the Credit Union by applying for the membership, filling in an application form and paying membership fee of \$2 (100Afs). The members should save regularly, borrow wisely and pay promptly to this office.

BRAC - Afghanistan: This agency has started its Microfinance project in the year of 2002 to be continued up to 2009 and has worked on income generation trainings, saving, and giving loans for starting micro businesses like carpet weaving, vegetable cultivation, carpentry etc to some 9,501 households in Balkh province.

Agha Khan Foundation: Microfinance activities of the Agha Khan Foundation are going to start in Mazar-i-Sharif in a month or two. The primary assessment and survey has been conducted so far.

This organisation will extend loans to the vulnerable skilled people to start Micro enterprises. The loan is supposed to be returned with 1.5% of the total amount as administration cost in a period of one or more years depending on the business. These people will be selected by Agha

Khan Foundation and community elders and it assumed that some 1,000 to 1,500 persons will benefit in the first phase. This project has already started in Baghlan province about two years ago and is going to start in Badakhshan, Kunduz and Takhar in near future.

Swedish Committee (SC): SC has a Microfinance project for the disabled after assessment and medical treatment. There are various training courses such as carpet weaving, embroidery, sewing, carpentry and metallurgy available for the disabled. SC will provide them with toolkits and loans at the end of the training courses to enable them start a micro business for themselves. The marketing part is also done by this organisation. About 1,467 people including 700 females have benefited from this project in Balkh, Samangan and Jawzjan provinces from 1993 up to now.

AGEF: This organisation started its activities a year ago to help the most vulnerable people in particular returnees, disarmed soldiers and government employees.

AGEF conducts training courses in management, accounting and business start up, English language, carpentry and metallurgy to enable the graduates to get loans from AGEF to start micro enterprises. Returnees who have plans for starting a new business can make a proposal for it. AGEF will help them to start a business by getting loans.

International Rescue Committee (IRC): This organisation started two years (started from 2002 up to the end of 2004) vocational training for the vulnerable people such as widows, returnees, orphans and disabled who need to learn working skills and start a micro business.

IRC held a 12 days workshop to teach the beneficiaries how to make a business plan and find loan resources to start their jobs. This organisation also provides them with loans and toolkits after training period while they introduced to the respective shops, factories and companies.

ACTED: It has recently started a small project in Pul-i-Khumri City of Baghlan province. They started with 72 beneficiary families of which 30 percent are returnees. This agency gives loans of \$100 (5,000Afs) to these families to start small businesses.

Sources of Information: Planning Dep. WOCCU, BRAC-Afghanistan, Agha Khan Foundation, Swedish Committee, AGEF, IRC.

South Eastern Region

IRC: IRC has supported activities like loan distribution in cash to business owners, apprentices and masters training, business management training and collection of loan instalments in Gardez, Said Karam, Chamkani and Zurmat districts, since 2002. So far, a total of 671 people have benefited from the above projects.

AGEF: AGEF is an Implementing Partners (IP) of ANBP/DDR to implement Small Business services to the ex-combatants (XCs) in the South East Region. The XCs who select this option in reintegration process are referred to AGEF for the registration and further services in the option.

After graduation from a 14 days Small Business course, the XCs submit their business plans to AGEF for the evaluation and approval. In case of approval, the XCs receive first instalment of \$250 and AGEF pays the second instalment of \$450 (\$200 benefit inclusive) after the evaluation and endorsement of investment by the AGEF field staff.

A total of 31 XCs have benefited from this Small Business programme since November 2003.

Sources of Information: IRC and AGEF

Eastern Region

AREA: The Micro credit section of AREA in Jalalabad was established in 2001. It supports Micro credit projects by providing loans to the beneficiaries in Nangarhar and Laghman provinces. Within the last two years, a total of 291 families (majority of whom were returnees) in Surkhrod, Behsud, Pachir-o-Agam, Roadat, Haska Mina, Khiwa and Ghani Khel districts of Nangarhar province and Alingar, Alishang and Qarghaee districts and Mehterlam City of Laghman province benefited from these projects. Each family received a loan ranging between \$100 – 200 (5,000 – 10,000Afs). Also, a total of 1,900 needy farmers were provided with fertilizer and wheat seeds.

The beneficiaries have to reimburse the loans on monthly basis in one year, except the farmers, who are supposed to reimburse it in two instalments usually scheduled after the harvest of their crops.

MADERA: MADERA's Microfinance projects are being implemented in Behsud, Surkhrod and Jalalabad City of Nangarhar, Qarqhaee district of Laghman and Sirkanay district of Kunar province. A total of 2,268 families in the above mentioned areas were provided with loans in different forms such as oxen, farm inputs (fertilizer and seed), agricultural tools, cash for the needy women to start small businesses and collective loan for the community such as construction of Micro Hydro Power for a village. The loans in different projects range between \$86 – 690 (4,300 – 34,500Afs) per family and between \$3,448 – 4,310 (172,000 – 215,500Afs) per village. The duration for reimbursement of loans differs from nine to 36 months. Priority is given to the returnees and needy farmers.

German Agro Action (GAA): GAA provides the needy farmers (including eligible returnees) of Dara-i-Noor and Achin districts of Nangarhar province with oxen or cows. Since 2003, they have loaned 74 oxen and 54 cows to the needy farmers and widows. The loan ranges between \$535 – 625 (24,610 – 28,750Afs) for oxen and between \$300 – 350 (13,800 – 16,100Afs) for cows. The loans are supposed to be reimbursed in two instalments within one year. This project will be extended to Nazian district of Nangarhar province during this year.

Relief International (RI): The Micro Credit Section of RI in Jalalabad was established in 2003. It provides the vulnerable people with loans in cash, which ranges between \$90 – 170 (4,500 –

8,500Afs). RI has assisted a total of 140 families in Achin, Chaparhar, Khogyani, Roadat, Kot, Behsud, Shirzad, Shin War and Surkhrod districts of Nangarhar province so far. The reimbursement of the loan is between 4 - 18 months time depending on the nature of project.

BRAC – Afghanistan: So far this agency has provided loans to 3,000 women in Majboor Abad village of Jalalabad City and Khiwa, Behsud, Surkhrod, Batikot and Roadat districts of Nangarhar province. The loan in cash is \$800 (4,000Afs).

Beneficiaries are selected by the female field workers of the Agency. The priority is given to widows and those women who have been living in the same village for at least three years. Beneficiaries are charged with 15% of the total amount of loan to cover the administration cost of the agency. The loans are supposed to be reimbursed on a weekly basis within 46 weeks.

According to BRAC officials, they plan to implement the loan projects in this area on a long term basis in the future.

Sources of Information: AREA, RI, GAA, BRAC - Afghanistan, MADERA

Western Region

Norwegian Project Office (NPO): NPO implements loan programmes in Kushk-i-Rabat Sangi district of Herat to assist women to become self sufficient since early 2003. The loan is given in-kind such as carpet weaving materials.

BRAC - Afghanistan: This organisation launched its loan projects in Herat in 2004. The loan is \$125 (6,000Afs) and could increase to \$4,166 (200,000Afs) in future. The loan is given for a period of one year to be paid off at the end with 15% administrative costs. BRAC has recently launched loan projects through its 11 site offices in Herat City and will possibly expand to Badghis too.

DACAAR: DACAAR started to implement small loan projects in 2002 to help poor people in Qadis district. The loan amount is \$50 (2,500Afs) for women and \$150 (7,500Afs) for men. Currently the programme is being carried out in 85 villages of Qadis district.

AREA: AREA has been implementing in kind and livestock loan projects since 2002 in Herat. The loan is not given to individuals, but to a group of people guaranteed by the local Shura or elders of the clusters in the area.

FINCA: FINCA has implemented Microfinance programme and loan system in Herat province since November 2003. FINCA start up costs is financed by the Microfinance & Support Facility for Afghanistan (MISFA). The amount of loans is usually \$125 (6,000 Afs). FINCA also charges the beneficiaries with 15% of the total loan as administration cost. Loan is given to the group of six to 20 people of between 18 and 60 years of age inclusive. The loan is supposed to be returned in three months.

Sources of Information: BRAC - Afghanistan, FINCA, AREA, DACAAR, and NPO/ARAA Offices

5. SECURITY

Central Region

Kabul: On 18 July 2004, a rocket landed in a local residence in Shashdarak in district no.9 of Kabul City killing a woman in her house.

On 19 July 2004, eight Afghan villagers and soldiers were injured when US led forces blew up a heavy weapons stockpile in Qarabagh district. Heavy weapons had been piled up in a house in the Qala-i-Mosa village.

On 20 July 2004, one rocket landed on Jalalabad road in Yakatoot area and another one in Tapa-i-Maranjan in Kabul with no casualties or property damages.

Northern Region

Kunduz Province: On 10 July 2004, an Electoral vehicle was attacked by a gunman in Quter Bulaq, in Imam Sahib District. There were two staff, a driver and an electoral staff member in the vehicle. None of them was injured. Later on Police arrested the suspect.

Sar- i - Pul: On the fourth week of July 2004, factional fighting took place in Sangcharak district. A woman and a child were killed as a local feud led to punctuated gunfire.

Southern Region

Kandahar: On 15 July 2004, 15 kg of explosives were seized in the Kandahar main bazaar area and three men were arrested. 5 kg of explosives were seized from a bus travelling from Herat to Kandahar. One person was arrested.

On 16 July 2004, two rockets were fired from Shatool Marnjan village of Arghandab district, impacting in the village of Sarkari Bagh. No casualties were reported.

Southeast Region

Paktia Province: On 13 July 2004, the law enforcing agencies stopped a Corolla car, and discovered 20 rounds of AK 47 bullets and seven small guns. The driver who was from Khost is in police custody for further investigation.

Ghazni Province: On 12 July 2004, a Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB) Police Jeep was ambushed by some unidentified gunmen in Atan Village of Andar District. As a result, two policemen were killed and, two policemen and two civilians were injured. Ghazni Chief of Police went to the spot, arrested a few people in connection with the attack, and the investigation is still on going.

Eastern Region

Nangarhar: On 13 July 2004, two men were spotted in the area of the communications centre in Jalalabad City with an IED and a remote device. One was arrested, but the other escaped.

On 14 July 2004, five men were arrested in Jalalabad City in connection with several robberies within the city.

On 20 July 2004, the local authorities in Khogyani district of Nangarhar province stopped two males in a taxi and found IED making materials including two VHF radios. The material and radios were confiscated and the two people were arrested and handed over to the National Security Department (NSD) in Jalalabad City.

Western Region

Herat: On 12 July 2004, three armed men broke into a businessman house in district no.5 of Herat and reportedly shot at the house owner and his sons; the father and one son died on the spot and the other son was seriously wounded. Two of the perpetrators managed to escape, but the one who was injured was arrested by the police.

6. THE AGA KHAN FOUNDATION (AKF) REGIONAL OFFICE IN BAMYAN IS SEEKING QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS

Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) is a private, international, nonprofit and non-denominational development agency, part of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). It seeks sustainable solutions to long term problems of poverty. Its main areas of focus are health, education, rural development and strengthening civil society.

The Aga Khan Foundation Regional Programme Office in Bamyan is seeking exceptional individuals to fill the following positions:

POSITION TITLE	NO. OF POSITIONS	DUTY STATION
Regional Human Resource Officer	1	Bamyan province
Field Engineer	10	Bamyan (Shiber, Surki Parsa, Sheikh Ali, Panjab and Waras districts) and Parwan provinces
Regional Natural Resources Management Manager	1	Bamyan and Parwan provinces
Logistic Assistant	3	Bamyan (Shiber, Surki Parsa and Waras districts) Parwan Province
District Social Organiser	7 female and 3 male	Bamyan (Shiber, Surki Parsa, Sheikh Ali and Waras districts) and Parwan
District Agriculturalist	1	Bamyan (Sheikh Ali district)
Community Facilitator	25 female and 16 male	Bamyan (Shiber, Surki Parsa, Sheikh Ali and Waras districts) and Parwan
Administration Assistant	1	Bamyan Regional Office
Provincial Social Organiser	1 male and 1 female	Bamyan and Parwan provinces

Afghan nationals meeting the requirements are requested to submit a cover letter along with their CVs and applications with the names of three references should be preferably sent by e-mail to: Nabeel.Nodrat@akdn-afg.org

If this is not possible, then submit your documents by hand to Regional Programme Manager, AKDN Bamyan Regional Office, Sar Asyab, Bamyan – Afghanistan, or the Human Resource Department, AKDN office in Kabul, House No. 43, Wazir Akbar Khan Road, Kabul, Afghanistan.

For more information about the qualifications and experiences required for the jobs, you can contact UNHCR Mass Information Sections in Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan, or AKDN office in Bamyan or Kabul.

7. PRICE COMPARISON FOR ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES, FEBRUARY – JULY 2004

Wheat (Kg)

W/Flour (Kg)

Cities	February 2004		July 2004		February 2004		July 2004	
	AFS	US\$	AFS	US\$	AFS	US\$	AFS	US\$
Kabul	8.0	0.16	8.0	0.17	11.0	0.23	11.0	0.24
Kandahar	10.5	0.21	9.0	0.20	13.3	0.27	10.9	0.24
Jalalabad	8.7	0.18	9.5	0.20	11.8	0.24	11.5	0.25
Herat	6.7	0.14	9.5	0.20	11.8	0.24	12.0	0.26
Mazar	6.0	0.12	9.5	0.21	7.0	0.14	10.5	0.23
Faizabad	6.7	0.14	12.0	0.26	9.3	0.19	11.0	0.24

Bread (Kg)**Diesel/Litre**

Cities	February 2004		July 2004		February 2004		July 2004	
	AFS	US\$	AFS	US\$	AFS	US\$	AFS	US\$
Kabul	15.0	0.31	20.0	0.43	15.0	0.31	19.0	0.41
Kandahar	12.0	0.24	12.0	0.26	15.0	0.30	17.5	0.38
Jalalabad	17.6	0.36	17.6	0.38	16.3	0.33	20.6	0.44
Herat	15.0	0.31	15.0	0.32	15.0	0.30	16.0	0.34
Mazar	15.0	0.30	15.0	0.33	11.0	0.21	18.0	0.39
Faizabad	17.6	0.36	33.0	0.73	18.0	0.37	23.0	0.51

One year old Live Sheep**Casual Labour/day****Exchange Rate**

Cities	February 2004		July 2004		February 2004		July 2004		February and July 2004		
	AFS	US\$	AFS	US\$	AFS	US\$	AFS	US\$	US\$	AFS	AFS
Kabul	4,200	86.07	4,300	93.28	120	2.46	140.0	3.04	1	48.8	46.1
Kandahar	3,800	77.55	4,000	87.53	120	2.45	130.0	2.84	1	49.0	45.7
Jalalabad	4,366	89.00	4,280	92.00	98.3	2.01	128.3	2.76	1	48.8	46.5
Herat	3,200	65.44	3,400	73.12	110	2.25	144.0	3.10	1	48.9	46.5
Mazar	3,800	77.24	3,100	67.69	140	2.85	170.0	3.71	1	49.2	45.8
Faizabad	3,500	71.72	3,700	81.50	150	3.07	200.0	4.41	1	48.8	45.4

Unit Prices of Household Items (All prices are in Afghanis - Exchange Rate: \$1 = 46Afs)

City	TV 14 in Made in China	Radio Small Made in China	Sewing Machine Made in India	Refrigerator Made in Pakistan	Car Tires for Toyota Corolla per pair Made in China	Wheelbarrow Made in Pakistan
Kabul	3,500	200-500	1,350	13,000-22,000	1,500-3,000	1,500
Mazar	5,520	500	5,060	12,000- 14,000	2,000	1,500
Kandahar	8,000	300	2,500	17,000	2,000	1,100
Jalalabad	2,800	140 – 220	1,200	14,500-16,000	1,450-2,900	800-1,200
Herat	5,520	500	1,800	11,500	2,760	1,800

City	Audio CDs	Audio Cassettes	Cooking Oil per kg	Rice per kg	Sugar per kg	Neon Tube Lights Made in China	Well digging per meter by machine
Kabul	30-50	30	50	30-35	20	40	300
Mazar	50	25	53	30	18	50	250
Kandahar	30	20 - 25	45	25	20	200	200
Jalalabad	25	25	38	15-25	20	95	320 - 800
Herat	40	25	40	30	18	50	500

8. RADIO PROGRAMMES**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 challenges 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 Thursday (6 days a week) on short wave frequencies of 13,605 kHz, and 9,795 kHz and on FM frequency of 89 MHz in Kabul.

Language	Days	GMT	Afghanistan Time
Pashto 1 st edition	Saturday to Monday	0916	1346
Pashto 2 nd edition	Tuesday to Thursday	1603	2033
Dari 1 st edition	Saturday to Monday	1616	2046
Dari 2 nd edition	Tuesday to Thursday	0846	1316

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

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, Mashad, Iran.

BBC FM transmitters in different provinces of Afghanistan are as follows:

City	Kabul	Mazar	Jalalabad	Bamyan	Kunduz	Faizabad	Pul-i-Khumri	Herat
FM Trans. MHz	89.0	89.0	89.0	89.0	88.1	88.4	99.6	89.2

City	Gardez	Kandahar	Jabulsaraj	Shibirghan	Maimana	Khost	Taloqan
FM Trans. (MHz)	87.9	88.0	89.1	91.0	92.1	90.1	88.3

UNHCR/ERTV Radio Programme: UNHCR has also a joint radio programme with Afghanistan Radio and TV, “Coming Home”, as part of its efforts to provide information for refugees. The programme is broadcast on Sundays and Fridays (two days a week) at 2100 hrs for 30 minutes in Dari and Pashto languages.

For further information, please contact:

Sima Alinejad on (0093) 70 279 230, E-mail: ALINEJAD@unhcr.org

Or Abdul Qayyum Karim on (0093) 70 280 565, E-mail: KARIMAQ@unhcr.org