

Afghanistan 2011

Appealing Agency	UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT) (UN-HABITAT)
Project Title	Humanitarian and protection assistance for families evicted from Kabul's informal settlements (KIS).
Project Code	AFG-11/P-HR-RL/39312/R
Sector/Cluster	PROTECTION
Objectives	Provide immediate protection to evicted families (including IDPs and Refugees Returnees) and support for their sustainable relocation.
Beneficiaries	Total: 500 Families evicted from informal settlements in 2011.
Implementing Partners	Direct assistance (and through relevant ministries and government departments - Kabul municipality, MoRR, MRRD etc).
Project Duration	Jan 2011 - Dec 2011
Current Funds Requested	\$590,000.00
Location	Kabul
Priority	B. HIGH
Enhanced Geographical Fields	

Needs

Approximately 2,300 families (13,600 individuals) are currently living illegally in 29 "informal settlements" in Kabul city. While the profile of inhabitants and their reasons for deciding to live in Kabul city varies considerably, including both security and economic factors, almost all of the inhabitants have been displaced at some stage of their lives and remain extremely vulnerable and forced by their poverty to live in very poor conditions. These communities face a variety of social protection challenges and live with the near-constant threat of eviction due to the high development value of the land they occupy.

Evictions from an informal settlement site required for construction are usually violent, sudden and unplanned, leaving the inhabitants to grab what possessions they can and find another place to live, typically on a site as temporary and as squalid as the one they were forced to leave. The vulnerability of families living in informal settlements is exacerbated each time they are evicted due to the loss of shelter, loss of basic household items and renewed displacement, and their underlying protection needs remain unaddressed while the cycle of temporary living and displacement continues.

Activities

UN-HABITAT and UNHCR are proposing to combine their respective expertise to provide humanitarian and protection interventions for families evicted from Kabul's informal settlements to address their immediate vulnerability and look for a more secure alternative to this cycle of informal living. A planning figure of 500 families (approximately 3,000 individuals) is proposed as a realistic estimate of the number of people likely to be evicted from informal settlements in Kabul city in 2011.

When an eviction order is served on an informal settlement, the inhabitants will be consulted by UNHCR and UN-HABITAT in conjunction with the Kabul municipal authorities and offered assistance, either to return voluntarily to their place of origin, in conditions of safety and dignity (UNHCR), or to relocate elsewhere in Kabul (UN-HABITAT). Transportation assistance will be provided to evicted families to enable them to move as a family, preventing family separation, and to take their household possessions with them.

Families that wish to return to their place of origin will be assisted by UNHCR in accordance with its core mandate to support displaced families with return and reintegration assistance. [The funding for this part of the process will come from UNHCR's core funding and is not a part of this project submission.]

For families that wish to remain in Kabul, they will be counseled and advised regarding areas of land within Kabul city where the municipality would allow them to live (e.g. Pole Charkhi or Qarabach), allowing for a minimally secure land tenure regime and being informed about the basic shelter assistance package (worth \$850) which UN-HABITAT will provide each family once they have identified a suitable piece of land to build on.

UN-HABITAT will also support each evicted family/community through the provision of basic amenities including water and sanitation (worth on average \$200 per family) in the selected area through the proven process of establishing Community Development Council. The families/community will be expected to contribute labour and locally available construction materials to supplement the UN-HABITAT package of shelter and basic infrastructure assistance. The CDC will provide further social facilities to the community members such as savings group mobilization.

Pending the construction of a shelter and depending on the assessed level of need, UNHCR will provide each evicted family with emergency assistance including shelter material (plastic sheets and ropes) and non-food items. [Funding for this emergency assistance is not including in this project submission.]

Outcomes

The project will provide 500 evicted families with humanitarian assistance to address their immediate vulnerability and protection needs, and guidance to enable them to make an informed decision regarding their future. Using the combined resources of UNHCR and UN-HABITAT in conjunction with relevant government authorities, the project would establish an effective strategy to assist communities evicted from informal settlements and provide initial support towards the achievement of a more durable and secure solution.

Given the number of informal settlements in Kabul as well as other cities in Afghanistan, it is hoped that such a strategy might be expanded in the future to assist more families to respond to the threat of eviction and find a sustainable answer to their shelter and protection needs.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)	
Original BUDGET items	\$
Transportation (2 families per truck = 250 trucks @ \$100 per truck)	25,000
Community Development Councils' (CDC) Mobilization (\$15,000/CDC)	30,000
Community members' savings grant (\$5,000/CDC, \$200/family). Used to supplement savings of the commun	10,000
UN-HABITAT shelter package (\$850/shelter)	425,000
UN-HABITAT basic amenities assistance (\$200/family)	100,000
Total	590,000

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