

Afghan refugees and Issues of Protection, Rights, and Justice

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Abstract

This article discusses the challenges facing Afghan refugees in the context of asylum and protection laws. It will focus on the problems that Afghan refugees and IDPs have faced during different periods of time which forced them to flee their home country to other countries. At the first stage it will consider the definition of refugees, then it will focus on the security situation of Afghanistan as well as natural disasters as reasons that people are leaving the country. Finally, it discusses the issues of refugees, IDPs, and the situation that returnees encounter upon their return as well as the reintegration process. The article concludes by providing some solutions for the problems of refugees based on human rights.

Keywords: *Afghanistan, Internally Displaced People, Law of Asylum, Protection, Refugees, UNHCR, War*

Introduction

The UN reports in June 2019 indicates that currently there are 70.8 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. From this amount of people about 3.5 million are asylum seekers and 41.3 million people are internally displaced. Around 55% of the refugees processed by UNHCR came from three countries (Syria 5.5 million, Afghanistan 2.5 million, South Sudan 1.4 million)¹. The forcibly displaced people in the world increase is about 2.3 million which still remain high. This shows that globally, in every 108 people 1 person is either an asylum-seeker, internally displaced or a refugee.²

Before going to the discussion on the point of factors for migration it will be good to have a short demographic breakdown of Afghanistan.

In a survey done by the World Bank it estimates the population of Afghanistan to be about 37 million,³ however the last partial census was done 40 years ago during King Zahir Shah and Dawoud Khan. The population of Afghanistan is a mix of different ethnic groups like Uzbek, Pashtun, Aimaq, Hazara, Tajik, Sayed, Pashayee, Noorestani, Turkman, Berahawi, Qezelbash, Pamiri Hindu and others. Despite the fact that the official language of the country is Dari and Pashtu, the country is a mix of different ethnic groups representing around 45 languages and accents as well.

¹20 people are newly displaced every minute of the day: <https://bit.ly/2GJODct>

²UNHCR : <https://bit.ly/2FeELYA>

³ Population, total – Afghanistan the World Bank (2018) <https://bit.ly/32kpU6M>

Historically, Afghan refugees mainly fled from the country in four waves: (Soviet-Afghan War 1979-1989, Afghan Civil War 1992-1996, Taliban regime 1996-2001, War in Afghanistan since 2001– onward). The highest number of Afghan refugees resulted from the Soviet invasion of the country and by 1990, about 6.3 million Afghan refugees lived in Iran and Pakistan as refugees.⁴ Subsequent flows of Afghan refugees resulted from civil wars and conflict in post-Soviet Afghanistan.

Only Syria with 6.7 million refugees has a higher number of refugees than Afghanistan.⁵ Afghan refugees make up 15% of the world's refugees, and more than 50% of Afghan refugees are under 18. In fact, half of Afghanistan's population are either immigrants or have experienced immigration.⁶ Besides Pakistan and Iran, some countries that are part of ISAF hosted few numbers of Afghans that were working with their particular forces; nevertheless, ethnic minorities like Afghan Sikhs and Hindus often fled to India.

Before addressing the factors for forced displacement and migration, the paper will now turn to key definitions including a refugee, Internal Displacement People (IDPs) asylum seeker, and safe country of origin and about the human rights of refugees.

Definition of refugee, IDPs and asylum seekers:

Who is an immigrant?

An immigrant is someone who relocates elsewhere, either within their home country or across borders. An immigrant is often called upon to leave his/her homeland on their own without any danger to them, to improve his /her living conditions.⁷

Who is displaced?

A displaced person is forced to leave his or her country because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion and belonging to a particular group in society. In the past few years, the word "climate migrant" has come to the fore. It is used to refer to people who are forced to leave their homes because of climate change⁸.

Who is an asylum seeker?

An **asylum seeker** is a person who has fled from his or her own country due to fear of persecution and has applied for (legal and physical) protection in another country but has not yet had their claim for protection assessed.⁹

Who is a refugee?

Those who apply for asylum under immigration laws in a country and the Geneva International Convention are called "refugees" before obtaining protection from the host country.¹⁰

What is a safe country of origin?

In a safe country of origin, people are not politically persecuted, and there is no reported inhuman or degrading punishment. But citizens of safe countries of origin cannot simply be

⁴Afghan migrants in Iran Face painful contradictions but Keep Coming, By Rod NordLand:Nov.20.2013

⁵BBC News:<https://bbc.in/35wFJJs>

⁶Wickramasekara, P., Sehgal, J., Mehran, F., Noroozi, L., Eisazadeh (2006). Afghan Households in Iran: Profile and Impact. UNHCR-ILO Cooperation:<https://bit.ly/2zjfAit>

⁷شیکه اطلاع رسانی پناهندگان و مهاجران <https://bit.ly/2mngqYc>

⁸ Same source as reference No: 7

⁹Rads to Refuge <https://bit.ly/35zA7hm>

¹⁰ Same source as reference No: 7

expelled from the country. Every asylum seeker must prove that he/she is politically targeted in their own country and cannot live there due to persecution.¹¹

However, most of the migration of Asian countries don't benefited from such kind of rights that has been mentioned in the definitions above, mostly Afghan refugees. The reason behind this is the less attention of the government on the refugee's problems. As Mohammad Alam Ezedyar stated on June 2th 2019 that "*Afghan migration is rooted in weak government.*"¹² Based on the different reports from different media and academic articles and interviews with the migrants themselves, insecurity, high rate of unemployment and presence of insurgents and lack of law enforcement have caused people leave their homeland and go to other countries.

Considering all the above mentioned points we can say that when governments engage in unlawful coercive activities against their own citizens they are breaking international law.

Civil war, conflict and Insecurity as forced factors for migration and Displacement

There are significant points of pressure that have motivated or made people leave their home countries. These push elements are mainly due to political issues, absence of fundamental security, presence of extremist groups like Daesh in Syria and Iraq, Al-Qaida, Haqqani network, Daesh and Taliban in Afghanistan.

Based on the reports of UNHCR looking at human displacement, violent conflicts and persecution at the worldwide level reached the highest figure recorded and is still increasing.¹³ In the case of Afghanistan, it has been experiencing insecurity for over four decades and in addition, natural disasters and the recent presidential elections have added to the issue of insecurity in the country.

The migrant fatalities have been recorded globally shows 60,000 migrant deaths since 2000, while the detail record of 2014 is 4099, for the 2015 is 5175, in 2016 the record is 5887, in 2017 is 5120, for the 2018 it has recorded 4180 and finally from January to 10 October the record of fatalities are 2469.¹⁴ A report from 2015 shows that more than 92000 Afghan have killed or badly injured during the course of 2001 to 2014 as the result of war, conflict and violence in Afghanistan.¹⁵ However, the number of people who lost their lives in Afghanistan increased significantly in 2017, 2018 and 2019. This has caused that the violence become normalized as part of the story of everyone's life. On the other hand the government's control over territory is getting weaker by the day, while the influence of the Taliban, Daesh and other armed insurgents are expanding in a way that now they have their influence at least in some part of each provinces including in Kabul.

There are many drivers that caused migration of Afghans. Most of the drivers have a complex link with each other such as security challenges, link with the natural resources like water, extractive industries among others. Then the natural resources have a close link with climate change and natural disasters. Indeed, drivers of conflict in Afghanistan's natural resources sector (extractive industries or mines, water,) have a close link with the war, conflict and violence, and these points directly link with migration and IDP. Even the lack of unemployment, due to climate change and natural disaster is causing people who are suffering from poverty to join

¹¹ Same source as reference No: 7

¹² BBC Persian <https://bbc.in/2krwVIs>

¹³ UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, available: <https://bit.ly/2LYGCCD>

¹⁴ INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM): <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/>

¹⁵ Crawford, Neta. C. (2015) War-related Death, Injury, and Displacement in Afghanistan and Pakistan 2001-2014, Boston: Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University: <https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2015/War%20Related%20Casualties%20Afghanistan%20and%20Pakistan%202001-2014%20FIN.pdf>

armed groups of insurgents. Moreover, drought, natural disasters and the increasing control of insurgent groups in many parts of the country is boosting the illicit economy and encouraging farmers to cultivate poppy which is mainly benefiting the Taliban and criminal groups.¹⁶

In 2018, the security situation in the country deteriorated significantly due to the parliamentary elections in October that year. Subsequently, large numbers of people were forced to migrate and flee their homes, villages and even the country. Preceding the elections, most of the areas in the country were affected by drought and the conflict and drought together caused more than 266,000 people to leave their homes and villages.

The world refugee's population kept on expanding numbering to 1,063,800 people at the end of 2018. Afghanistan with 126,000 refugees was in the third position after Syria and Iraq.

Iran has remained as the sixth largest refugee-hosting country with 979,400 refugees, most being Afghans. Last year a large number of people from the western provinces fled to Iran due to the drought and an uptick in the conflict and insecurity. Most people went to Iran illegally without any passport or visa. A large number of these individuals were returned to Afghanistan this year but not to their home provinces, villages or houses. They live in the main cities as IDPs. The reason for returning of these people are pressures of US economic sanctions on Iran that hugely reduced the work potential and economic opportunities. Another reason is that the exchange rate of Iran's currency (Toman) fell in the market of Afghanistan. Afghanistan in itself has a high rate of unemployment as well as the weak economic growth and lots of IDPs.¹⁷ The people who returned from Iran are about 489,900 that were helped by UNHCR financially, but they still remain a concern as they have yet to be integrated back into their societies. The international actors and Afghan government is concerned about this situation and that International Organization for Migration (IOM) predicts that this year (2019) there will be more than 570,000 refugees in Iran due to an economic downturn in that country. Based on the reports of NRC there are groups of hundreds of refugees who are forced to return to their country from neighboring countries (Iran and Pakistan).¹⁸ As Afghanistan is a war-torn country and has a range of challenging issues, it does not have the capacity to help refugees and returnees on time.

Natural Disaster (flood, earthquake, snow avalanche, drought, Storm and hunger) in Afghanistan:

One of the forced factors of migration is natural disasters like flood, earthquake, avalanche, and drought. The economic damage caused by these disasters has also been very high. A Swiss insurance company estimates the economic losses in 2018 for \$ 155 billion.¹⁹

Afghans residents who are living in their own provinces are likely to be employed there, benefitting from their established social ties. Returnees on the other hand have no access to basic healthcare, education services and drinking water.²⁰ The effects of natural disasters on migration

¹⁶ Parenti, Christian. (2015) Flower of War: An Environmental History of Opium Poppy in Afghanistan, SAIS Review of International Affairs.

¹⁷ The Global Trends Report: <https://p.dw.com/p/3OMDN>

¹⁸ The Global Trends Report: <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2018/>

¹⁹ افغانستان میں طبعی بلایاں سال 2018 جہاں <https://bit.ly/2LZsMQN>

²⁰ Afghan Returnees Face Economic Difficulties: Report: <https://bit.ly/2NUyKFG>

are largely related to the dimensions and types of disasters and the events that have occurred for example earthquakes. If the intensity of the earthquake is so high that the percentage of destruction is high, reconstruction is not possible in the short or medium term. The impact will be greater on population displacement and eventually on population change. As an example of the effects of natural disasters the collapse of natural body of water in Panjshir province led to the destruction of more than 500 houses that resulted in the displacement of people from their villages. This displacement also affected people's ability to access basic health services, education, and drinking water.

Returnees and reintegration process

Returnees to Afghanistan have had to arrive in a very challenging situation. The conditions facing returnees includes armed conflict, violence, insecurity, natural disasters like drought, poverty and unemployment with lack of access to basic services. There are many people from the returnees who need urgent support including IDPs who are living in the urban areas with no basic living resources.²¹ According to Sayed Husain Alimi Balkhi, the Minister of Refugees and Repatriation, he noted that "In one of our survey[s] that [we] conducted in 34 provinces shown[sic] that 266000 of Internal Displacements and returnees refugees are living under the tents and have no access for shelter and have limited access to the basic services".²²

Based on the figures given by Afghanistan's Embassy in India, more than 15,000 Afghans have applied for asylum to Europe, Canada and the USA. These Afghan refugees said: "India is not our final destination [and] we are hoping to migrate to Europe, Canada and USA." One of these asylum seekers said "we gathered here to have a nationals staged a peaceful rally in front of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in New Delhi to protest the 'unknown fate' of our asylum applications in European countries, Canada and USA."²³

According to the reports of Afghanistan's Ministry of Justice (MoJ), nearly 900 people lost their lives in the past year enroute to their first destination which was Iran, Turkey or Greece. For nearly all of these 900 individuals their main destination was Europe, Canada and USA. Moreover, about 534 children lost their lives during the journey and 40 of these children were girls. In terms of returnees, a report from IOM notes that "about 14000 Afghans from Turkey and 1400 Afghans from European countries repatriated either voluntarily or forced to leave those countries."²⁴

Millions of Afghan who returned from other countries mainly from Iran and Pakistan to Afghanistan have faced lots of issues like insecurity, not receiving support from the government and UN agencies due to having no clear policy and issues relating to reintegration. These returnees regret coming to Afghanistan as they did not receive what was promised to them by the government, UNHCR, IOM or OCHA. Most importantly, they have no access to basic services, security or jobs to feed their families. Due to these adverse circumstances, they decided to go back to Iran and Pakistan or other countries that had hosted them. This indicates that despite all the problems that refugees have faced in Pakistan and Iran, it was not as significant as the

²¹ DISTANT DREAMS Understanding the aspirations of Afghan returnees JANUARY 2019 <https://bit.ly/21AuOEA>

²² Tolo News: <https://bit.ly/2ARiRX1>

²³ Tolo News: <https://bit.ly/33hGvrP>

²⁴ Tolo News: Hasib Sadat 03 OCTOBER 2019: <https://bit.ly/2AXvhN3>

challenges they encounter in Afghanistan. By comparison, Afghans living in a different country are not necessarily worried about the security of their children, their schooling, job opportunities, and access to services like health, education and others because the conditions outside of Afghanistan is far better. One of the returnees who came from Iran narrated his story as below: “Living in Afghanistan is like being a soldier who is in the front line of a war. Every day we are witness of Suicide attacks, explosion, bullying of insurgents and environmental problems in the capital of the country and most of provinces.”

The UNHCR also said that “For longer term reintegration of migrant and the structure of reintegration program should be change. Because, there are many factors that caused some gaps and there is a need for lots of effort to improve the system at the policy level and at the operational level for filling these gaps. The displacement and Return Executive Committee (DiREC) purposes to centralize the decision making of reintegration in the country.”²⁵

The Afghan returnees who were living in other neighbouring countries there they had access to the good quality healthcare, good quality education services and clean drinking water. Nevertheless, these returnees have no access to the basic services, mostly those who are living in the rural areas, and they are facing with many challenging from a range of aspects. These challenges include integration into the community, acceptance of returnees by the host community, and quality of life, especially security and occupational aspects, are among the major challenges and issues that returnees are facing with. One of the issues or challenges that returnees face with that is the unfavourable and unpleasant questions by host community, mainly those returnees who came from Iran or Pakistan. Some of these returnees are saying that hosted community who we are living with them as neighbour are as bellow:

Are you Shia? Did you really come from Iran? Do you work in Iran? Do you export good products and import low quality from Iran? Did you study in Iran? Were you an immigrant there or just an employee in Iran? I think they changed your mind, did they? So you're an Iranian spy! Are you a spy for Iran? Same questions will be asked from returnees from Pakistan but with some slight changes.

For returnees from Iran to remain in the host community, they are required to have responses to these questions or accept and ignore what the host community members are say about them. These questions are unacceptable for the returnees mainly the young returnees. However, if a returnee is from the US, Europe or other western and eastern countries, people will respect them and will have very good relationship with them. By contrast, returnees from Iran have to live with the host community's constant suspicion about their background irrespective of their qualifications, skills, economic wellbeing or social standing or relations. Immigration experts and political experts attribute the problems and these unfavorable questions to the lack of positive Afghan foreign policy relations with Pakistan and Iran.

The returnees from Pakistan are mostly illiterate and arrive in Afghanistan with fake documents. In some cases, however, one of the advantages that some of the returnees from Pakistan have is that they may have gained English language skills, which gives them more credibility

25 DISTANT DREAMS Understanding the aspirations of Afghan returnees JANUARY 2019 <https://bit.ly/2IAuOEA>

than returnees from Iran. Returnees from countries other than Iran have similar privileges, including among foreigners in Afghanistan that seem to prejudice returnees from Iran and do not place them in important governmental, administrative or organizational positions. The mentality that all the returnees from Iran are spies of that country and should never be trusted requires further study.

The reasons for returning Afghan asylum seekers differs for each of the host countries. Those returnees who came from Iran note the increasing rate of unemployment, which has reduced the rate of the Iranian currency, low wages by most of the companies and inflation. By contrast, the returnees from Pakistan are saying that they are deported by the government of Pakistan.²⁶

The returnees from Pakistan are likely to register themselves with the government as returnees to receive some services. However, returnees from Iran do not like to register themselves as they prefer to register themselves with IOM and UNHCR or ask for support from their relatives and neighbours as the government will not support them on time.²⁷

The returnees from Iran and Pakistan generally receive some type of formal education and some of them learn some skills that can help them to work. Some of the skills that they learned are: tailoring, embroidery, handicrafts for women and masonry and some other skills for men.²⁸

According to the reports of The Asia Foundation more than 50 percent of returnees say that they are worse off economically. They also noted a lack of government support, shelter or basic services and difficult to find employment opportunities. This means that the unemployment rate is higher for returnees than the host community. By contrast, returnees from Pakistan say they had at least good job and good income for their families there. More than 50 percent of these returnees said that they had some savings but that they spent all of their money and are now looking for some sources of income to run their families. Many returnees are concerned with the coming of winter as the temperature dips below -15 degrees Celsius, and without proper shelter, they worry about their futures.

One of the main problems for the returnees is facing conflict during the integration process. Some of the returnees experienced different kinds of conflict or disputes with their host community members or neighbouring people. They were faced with discrimination on the way of speaking their language, having different accents or wearing clothes that makes them stand out. In some cases, the hosted community occupied the the lands and houses of returnees while they were away and this adds to the negativity and friction between returnees and the host community. Some members of host communities are unhappy with returnees as they may increase unemployment, make it harder for host members to be competitive in the market, or face unemployment themselves if returnees are more skilled. Despite these tensions, some host communities are welcome returnees as it makes them feel comfortable and secure having a village full of people.

26 The Asia Foundation Releases 2018 Survey of Afghan Returnees: <https://bit.ly/2Q7tU57>

27 The Asia Foundation Releases 2018 Survey of Afghan Returnees: <https://bit.ly/2Q7tU57>

28 The Asia Foundation Releases 2018 Survey of Afghan Returnees: <https://bit.ly/2Q7tU57>

UNHCR has had lots of development processes for reintegration of returnees in Afghanistan. Since 2002, UNHCR has assisted over 5.2 million registered refugees with cash and other support to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of the people.²⁹ Despite this support, there are large numbers of returnees and IDPs that face challenging conditions including having to face the cold weather without proper shelter except for tents. UNCHR significantly downgraded its activities in 2017 due to an increase in violence across the country. The report from 2017 of the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) demonstrates that more than, 600,000 people forcefully displaced due to conflict and they are almost from all the provinces of the country. Moreover, more than 200,000 internally displaced persons (IDP) by drought from the western part of the country in 2018. The trends in 2019 and beyond will depend on the evolving and highly unpredictable security situation.³⁰ In the recent report of the OCHA shows that from 1st January 2019 to 8th October 2019 about 314,235 people fled from their homes due conflict and war, 30 out of 34 provinces of Afghanistan had record of some level of forced displacement. These IDPs are facing with lots of problems lack of shelters, food insecurity, lack of protection and insufficient access to sanitation and health facilities.³¹

What are the Rights of Refugees, returnees and Internal Displacements (IDPs)?

Afghanistan like many other countries in Asia has not acceded to the Refugee Convention of 1951 and the protocol of 1967. The reason for not ratifying the refugee convention or the protocol was the lack of security and stable political will and internal conflict and war in the decades that followed. Asylum is protection given by a country to someone who is fleeing persecution in their home country. The 1951 United Nations Convention (including the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees) recognizes the right of persons to seek asylum from persecution in other countries.³²

Refugee law and international human rights law are closely intertwined and says that “*Refugees flee government that are unable or unwilling to protect their basic human rights, fear of persecution or life threat. The refugee law also intersects with international humanitarian law.*”³³

In another part of the law regarding the right of the family it has mentioned that: “*The family is seen as the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the state.*”³⁴ With respect to this right, a number of countries provide for the granting of derivative status to dependent relatives. Thus, where an individual is granted asylum, his or her dependent relatives will also receive protection through him or her.

Conclusion and recommendations:

In recent years, millions of Afghans who went to other countries as refugee most of them are received their rights and still they are asylum seekers or even just live in the camps with unclear destiny and unclear future. Moreover, the millions of refugees who have returned to Afghanistan war facing with lots of problems in the neighbouring countries. Reasons have varied, but a large number of them have returned due to fear of deportation, bad behaviour on the part of

²⁹ AFGHANISTAN MULTI-YEAR PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS STRATEGY, UNHCR, (2019-2021)

³⁰ AFGHANISTAN MULTI-YEAR PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS STRATEGY, UNHCR, (2019-2021)

³¹ Internal Displacement due to Conflict: <https://bit.ly/2eUXZ95>

³² Asylum & the right of refugees International Justice Resource Centre: <https://ijrcenter.org/refugee-law/>

³³ ASYLUM & THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES: <https://ijrcenter.org/refugee-law/>

³⁴ [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#), article. 23 point 1

the host governments, as well as the economic difficulties of living in Iran and Pakistan. By contrast, in the case of European countries, asylum recognition rates for Afghan's refugees has fallen significantly and most are forced to return to Afghanistan. However, the returnees are facing with reintegration issues either due to lack of clear policy from the government side, insecurity, and insecurity for the UNHCR, IOM and other relevant UN agencies to help them.

The Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) Asia was commissioned for addressing the evidence base on the returnees and reintegration of Afghan refugees in the country. But still the MMC can't work properly due to lack of good management at the government level (management of the reintegration) and insecurity as another point to let the IOM, UNHCR and other organizations to go to refugees and work based on their plans properly.

Nevertheless, the UNHCR have been engaging with development actors through a rights based approach. This approach is aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and supported by the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework to which Afghanistan announced its formal commitment in July 2018. Moreover, UNHCR Afghanistan has said that its strategic directions are closely aligned with UNHCR's Regional and Global strategic Direction for 2017-2021³⁵ that focuses on main five principles: Protect-Respond- Include- Empower- Solve.³⁶ Also, key elements of a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) have been set out by the New York Declaration for applying of refugee's movements and situation. The CRRF concentrates on the significance of supporting the countries and nations that hosts large numbers of refugees. After the declaration was adopted, the UNHCR is working with relevant stakeholders on the CRRF in some of the countries in Africa and Central America.³⁷ However, until now it has not started to work in Asia. Yet, most of the refugees in Asia mostly in South Asia are struggling with lots of problems like having no housing, education, jobs or primary services.

Recommendations

To address the issues here are some recommendations that can help relevant governmental and UN organizations for taking actions:

1. The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations should work closely with UNHCR and make a clear action plan for refugees in the hosted countries and find a way for resolving their problems, like access to services, facilitate living situation for them in the hosted countries with support of UNHCR.
2. Asylum seekers from Afghanistan in other countries are more than 1 million that are mostly teenagers and they need support IOM and UNHCR that should receive support till they start their education. Addressing the issues of the asylum seekers in other countries would also help refugees minimise psychological issues including reducing mental health problems such as depression.
3. Most of the returnees are facing psychological problems due to different issues like being humiliated by the hosted community, not receiving support and aid on time from

³⁵UNHCR'S STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2017-2021: <https://bit.ly/2kt81gH>

³⁶AFGHANISTAN MULTI-YEAR PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS STRATEGY, UNHCR, (2019-2021)

³⁷Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework : <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/63267>

government and relevant UN agencies. Due to an increase in violent conflict, returnees are facing a deteriorating security situation. What makes it harder to provide timely support is that there is not enough information on the number of returnees and their reintegration. If they can't work properly due to security issues they can train and do contract with private sectors and national NGOs who can work at the local levels.

4. At a governmental level, in particular the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, the lack of a clear strategy for addressing the problems of refugees and returnees is another important point. Weak coordination and cooperation among relevant ministries and internal problems at the ministry level feed the problems to increase. There is a need for a great political will on addressing this issue through an operational plan of Council of Ministries by linking it with the President or Chief Executive.
5. Weak capacity in the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation and corruption is another important point that needs to be addressed. Many of the relevant staff members of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation introduce their own relatives and friends for receiving aid and financial support. Even those people who are neither returnees nor IDPs benefit from aid and financial support. A monitoring team mix of UN, Civil Society (CSOs) and different stakeholders from government should establish to monitor and evaluate the aid for the refugees and returnees.
6. Mobile clinics, and psychosocial assistance should be part of the aid program from the UN agencies and government for the returnees and refugees.
7. The government does not have enough data on refugees, returnees, asylum seekers and IDPs and this also needs to be updated on time. Therefore, there is a need to have a unified data center that UN agencies, government and other donors and research centers can have access to so that proper aid and services can be provided for them.

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