AFGHANISTAN

Evaluation of the Community-Based Protection and Solutions Programme Response in Priority Areas of Return and Re-integration in Afghanistan

MARCH 2021

WRITTEN BY

IMPACT Initiatives

FUNDED BY

IMPLEMENTED BY

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About IMPACT Initiatives

IMPACT Initiatives is a leading Geneva-based think-and-do tank that shapes humanitarian practices, influences policies and impacts the lives of humanitarian aid beneficiaries through information, partnerships and capacity building programmes. IMPACT's teams are present in over 20 countries across the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia, and work in contexts ranging from conflict and disasters to regions affected by displacement and migration. The work of IMPACT is carried out through its two initiatives- IMPACT & AGORA and through the provision of direct support to partners regarding Project Assessments and Appraisals (PANDA).

Summary

Following the influx of refugee-returnees from Pakistan and Iran in 2016, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been supporting the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's (GoIRA) Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) through a series of programmes aimed at providing durable solutions for returnees and long-term displaced populations in Afghanistan[1]. In line with the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) and Comprehensive Refugees Response Framework (CRRF), 20 locations were identified by UNHCR and GoIRA as Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARR locations). In these locations, large populations of refugee-returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities live together. Within these PARR locations, UNHCR implemented its short and medium-term Community-based Protection and Solutions Programme Response (CO-PROSPER) programmes to promote long-term development initiatives. UNHCR aimed to develop an area-based, humanitarian-development-peace triple nexus response to support durable solutions and create conducive conditions for the sustainable reintegration of displaced persons.[2]

To understand the impact of these programmes on the PARR locations, IMPACT Initiatives (IMPACT) conducted an evaluation of the impact of the programmes in PARR locations across four different dimensions: 1) community leadership inclusivity, 2) strengthening public services and equitable access, 3) income generation and economic empowerment, and 4) peacebuilding, and created indices to measure progress over these four key objectives that can be compared against the programme goals. It is important to note that no baseline assessment was conducted before the programme was implemented.

In order to conduct this assessment, IMPACT used a mixed-method approach, using two structured tools with separate methodologies to assess each site as follows. A HH level tool was used to interview a representative sample of HHs in each of the 20 PARR locations, with a 95% confidence level and a 10% margin of error. While aggregated (to the overall HH level) results are representative by population group (IDPs, refugee-returnees, and host communities) and by location, findings per population group in the locations are indicative only. In addition, Key Informants (KIs) were interviewed to assess community leadership in each of the 20 PARR locations to provide indicative information on infrastructure, service presence, stakeholder presence, and conditions faced by specific displacement groups in each site. Nine KIs were interviewed in each location (except for three locations). Between 21 February and 5 March 2021, 2,039 HHs and 168 KIs were interviewed across all 20 PARR locations.

Key Findings

Demographics

- Only 6% of the HHs intended to leave their location where they were interviewed in the 12 months following data collection. Among those, 67% reported intending to move to a different place within Afghanistan. The main reasons to move for those HHs were related to a lack of livelihoods opportunities (63%) and access to housing/shelter (20%).

- Of the refugee-returnee HHs interviewed, the average reported time that they had been living in their current location was 5 years or more. This would potentially make them eligible to the Presidential Decree 108 (PD 108); a land allocation scheme for people who have been displaced for at least 5 years. According to PD 108, land allocations will be made in new settlements ("townships") on vacant land in peripheral urban areas that meet PD 108 criteria for sustainable settlements.[3]

- Among refugee-returnee HHs, the most commonly reported reasons why they returned to Afghanistan were because that they wanted to return to a familiar place (24%) and because they had been forced to return to Afghanistan (21%).

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[1] UNHCR, Afghanistan: Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration, October 2020.

[2] Ibid

[3] Afghanistan Protection Cluster Meeting Presentation, March 2, 2021 (unpublished)

Community Leadership Inclusivity

- HHs reported having a strong trust in community leadership to deal with community tension. This was supported by the fact the 77% of the interviewed HHs reported agreeing with the statement that community leadership manages all issues equally, and by 73% of HHs agreeing or strongly agree with the statement that the feedback mechanisms in place (likely coordinated with community leadership) were helpful in keeping those in charge accountable.

- Findings indicate that local governance (composite index) was perceived to be positive or very positive by a majority of HHs (78%). Leadership in locations with positive or very positive perceptions tended to be more composed of Shuras (village elder) (53%) and Arbab/malik (village leader normally selected by village consensus) (37%). The selection of leadership was done by the whole community according to 86% of the assessed HHs, which could explain the strong trust in leadership by all the population groups.

Strengthening Public Services and Access

- Service access tended to be the same for HHs in a given location, regardless of displacement status. However, service access varied considerably by region, with HHs in specific regions reporting certain issues – service gaps were particularly commonly reported in the North, West, and Central regions.

- Concerning shelters, HHs in PARR locations in the South and IDP HHs were more likely to report poor shelter quality. This was related to the difficulties in finding land, which was reported to be managed mostly by private owners by 81% of the assessed KIs. Despite these difficulties, few KIs reported that HHs were at any risk of eviction from their homes (7%), and almost all have reported strong community solidarity to support HHs looking for secure housing or land (97%).

- For health access, 19% of KIs reported people were not able to access/use the nearest health centre. Among these KIs, the most commonly reported reasons were the cost of medicines (28%) and the insufficient capacity of the health centre (28%). Furthermore, refugee-returnee HHs reported being slightly less likely to be able to access to healthcare compared to other displacement groups.

- Every HH in the 20 PARR locations seemed to be satisfied in general with the quality of education. However, close to one-fourth of KIs (23%) reported that girls are likely to not attend school, while 13% of KIs reported the same for boys.

Income Generation and Economic Empowerment

- The income generation and economic empowerment profile of the PARR locations was the index that tended to have the highest proportion of negative perception scores. The high reliance on unskilled labour, as reported by 44% of HHs, suggested that locations had unstable job markets and were vulnerable to economic fluctuations. Regardless of location or displacement status, at least half of all HHs reported that job opportunities were either stagnant or decreasing in the area where they live.

- Findings suggest there might be a certain lack of business support in the assessed PARR locations, such as from financial institutions or support networks. This could perhaps explain to an extent why only 16% of HHs reported having their own business.

- Concerning women empowerment, there was generally a positive perception according to the composite indicator calculated (65%). Furthermore, a majority of KIs reported that there is a position in community leadership structures reserved for women and that women can start a business.

- IDPs comparatively more commonly reported concerns about risk of eviction (reported by 41% of IDP HHs) than other assessed groups. Moreover, 60% of IDP HHs reported not having official documentation for the land they lived on.

Peacebuilding

- The peacebuilding findings suggested that, overall, HHs from different communities coexist peacefully together without major differences between population groups. In addition, there was strong confidence in the community leadership to represent the community and to resolve conflicts that the community face.

- Among the HHs that reported there were local disputes between members of the community (38%), the most commonly reported types of conflict by HHs were land (79%) and money (60%) disputes that involved landowners (67%) and HHs (58%) rather than armed groups (15%). The community leadership was commonly reported to almost always be involved in conflict resolution and was reported to succeed in resolving issues permanently by two-thirds of households.

Programme Support and Impact of Assistance

- Concerning the evaluation of the programme, nearly half of HHs were not aware of NGOs working in the area (43%) but most HHs reported that they had received assistance (85%). Only 14% of HHs reported having attended any kind of training in the year prior to data collection. Trainings related to handicrafts, business and agriculture were most often reported to have been attended.

- Most HHs reported that the aid programmes in their communities had slightly improved their overall wellbeing (69%). However, many HHs reported facing a lack of livelihood opportunities; this appeared to be even more prevalent for the IDP HHs and refugee-returnee HHs, compared to host community HHs.

- There was regional variation concerning the mains issues that HHs faced but the majority reported livelihoods. In the North, the main problems that the HHs reported were access to healthcare services and livelihood equally (38%), in the North-east access to water was the biggest issue (41%) marginally to livelihoods (40%), and in the South insecurity was the biggest issue for HHs (42%).

- Concerning community development initiatives, around half of the households (49%) reported not being able to provide input on any community development project. However, among those who reported that they could provide input also reported that they believed that their input is considered during community development planning (78%).

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
GOIRA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
MORR	Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation
SSAR	Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugees Response Framework
PARR LOCATIONS	Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
Co – PROSPER	Community-based Protection and Solutions Programme Response
HHI	HHs Interviews
KI	Key Informant
KII	Key Informant Interview
PD	Presidential Decree
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Geographical Classifications

Region   Highest level of administrative boundaries below the national level. In Afghanistan there are 8 regions as of 2021.

Province   Administrative boundaries below the regional level. In Afghanistan there are 34 provinces as of 2021.

Districts   Administrative boundaries below the province level. In Afghanistan, there are 419 districts as of 2021

Figures, Tables and Maps

Introduction

With over 40 years of conflict, Afghanistan has seen large displacement trends. According to the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP),[4] 18.4 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance in 2020, of which over 4.8 million had been displaced since 2012. Furthermore, 2,147 Afghans returned in to the country in 2020,[5] and the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)[6] has projected that around 500,000 internally displaced persons, 714,000 returnees, and 72,000 refugees and asylum seekers will be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2021.

Following the influx of refugees and returnees from Pakistan and Iran in 2016, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has supported the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's (GoIRA) Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) through a series of programmes aimed at providing durable solutions for returnee and long-term displaced populations in Afghanistan.[7] In line with the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) and Comprehensive Refugees Framework (CRRF), 20 locations were identified by UNHCR and the GoIRA as Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration[8] (PARR), where large numbers of refugees and returnees have been living side by side with internally displaced people (IDPs) and host communities. In these PARR locations, UNHCR has implemented its Community Based Protection and Solutions Programme Response (Co-PROSPER) to promote long term sustainable development, with the aim of supporting the community to be in a position to better integrate refugees and returnees.[9]

To provide UNHCR with evidence on the impact of its Co-PROSPER programme on the 20 PARR locations, and support future programme design, IMPACT Initiatives (IMPACT) was commissioned to conduct an evaluation of 20 PARR locations where the programme in question was implemented. This is the first evaluation that was conducted in these 20 locations, as no baseline assessment was conducted prior to programme implementation.

This evaluation was conducted with four key themes in mind: 1) community leadership inclusivity, 2) equitable access and quality of public services, 3) income generation and economic empowerment, and 4) peacebuilding. The evaluation considered the following three population groups to understand if there were any need or programmaitc impact disparities between the groups: IDPs, refugee-returnees, and host communities. Moreover, the evaluation aimed to understand the impact the Co-PROPSER programme left on the PARR locations.

This report outlines the main findings from the evaluation of the Co-PROSPER programme in the 20 PARR locations across Afghanistan. Based on the four key themes, the findings are organised into six sections: demographics, community leadership inclusivity, equitable access and quality of public services, income generation and economic empowerment, peacebuilding, and the impact of the Co-PROSPER programme in the 20 PARR locations.

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[4] Afghanistan: Humanitarian Response Plan Summary 2021
[5] Afghanistan : voluntary repatriation update.UNHCR, December 2020
[6] Afghanistan: Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021
[7] Evaluation of UNHCR's Country Operation, Afghanistan, August 2020
[8] UNHCR, Afghanistan: Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration, October 2020
[9] Ibid

Methodology

This evaluation was conducted through key informant (KI) and HH (HH) level interviews, which aimed to gather information relating to three main population groups in the 20 PARR locations: refugee-returnees, IDPs, and host communities. The KI and HH interviews were developed in coordination with UNHCR and were conducted using the KoboCollect on smartphones and tablets.

Populations of Interest

Both the KI tools and HH surveys aimed to understand the situation and needs of three target populations:

- **Refugee-returnees**: people who have fled their homes due to conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, who have crossed an internationally recognized state border and have since returned to their areas of origin. [10]

- **IDPs:** people who have recently been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.[11]

- **Host communities**: people living in their place or area of origin.

Geographical Scope

This assessment evaluated 20 priority areas of return and reintegration locations that were identified by the UNHCR and the MoRR. It was in these 20 locations where UNHCR's Co-PROSPER community protection-based programme had been implemented. The PARRs themselves were either urban centres, villages, or a collection of villages. They spanned across 11 provinces and 17 districts and covered a population of 1,347,207 people (as of August 2020).[12] Table 1 on the following page gives the specific locations of each PARR, and Map 1 shows the province and district of where the PARRs are located.

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[10] Returnee Definition. UNHCR
[11] IDP Definition. UNHCR
[12] UNHCR, PARR Location and Population Database (unpublished).

Table 1: Sites assessed with the total population (provide by the UNHCR and the MoRR, 2020) and the number of interviews

OID	Province	District	Location	Total population	Total HH Interview	Total KI Interview
1	Bamyan	Bamyan	Shash Pool and Qashqa	85,484	101	9
2	Daikundi	Center	Nilli	9,750	100	9
3	Kabul	PD 21	Tarakhail Daag	38,850	101	9
4	Kabul	PD 21	Ghaziabad	11,800	100	9
5	Kabul	Qarabagh	Aka Khail Area	26,870	101	9
6	Parwan	Charikar	Laghmani	15,050	100	9
7	Kabul	Qarabagh	Ustad Khalilullah Khalili	7,910	100	6
8	Parwan	Bagram	Qala-e-Nasro & Bini Warsak	25,410	101	9
9	Nangarhar	PD 4	Majboorabad	150,000	101	9
10	Laghman	Qarghayee	Charbagh	60,000	101	9
11	Nangarhar	Behsud	Daman	140,000	101	9
12	Nangarhar	Surkhroad	Shekh Mesri	70,900	101	9
13	Laghman	Qarghayee	Aziz Khan Kas	65,800	101	9
14	Jawzjan	Acqcha	Noor Abad	3,850	99	6
15	Balkh	Nahr-e-Shahi	Sakhi Camp & Qalin Bafan	20,650	101	9
16	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	Sher Khan Bandar	24,850	101	9
17	Kandahar	PD 9 & 12	Loya Wala	323,227	101	9
18	Kandahar	PD 7 & 8	Mirwais Mina	118,806	101	9
19	Herat	Injil	Kahdistan	18,000	101	9
20	Herat	Injil	Jebrial	130,000	101	3
	GRAND TOTAL			1,347,207	2,014	168

Maps 1: Map of assessed PARR locations by the district of each PARR location
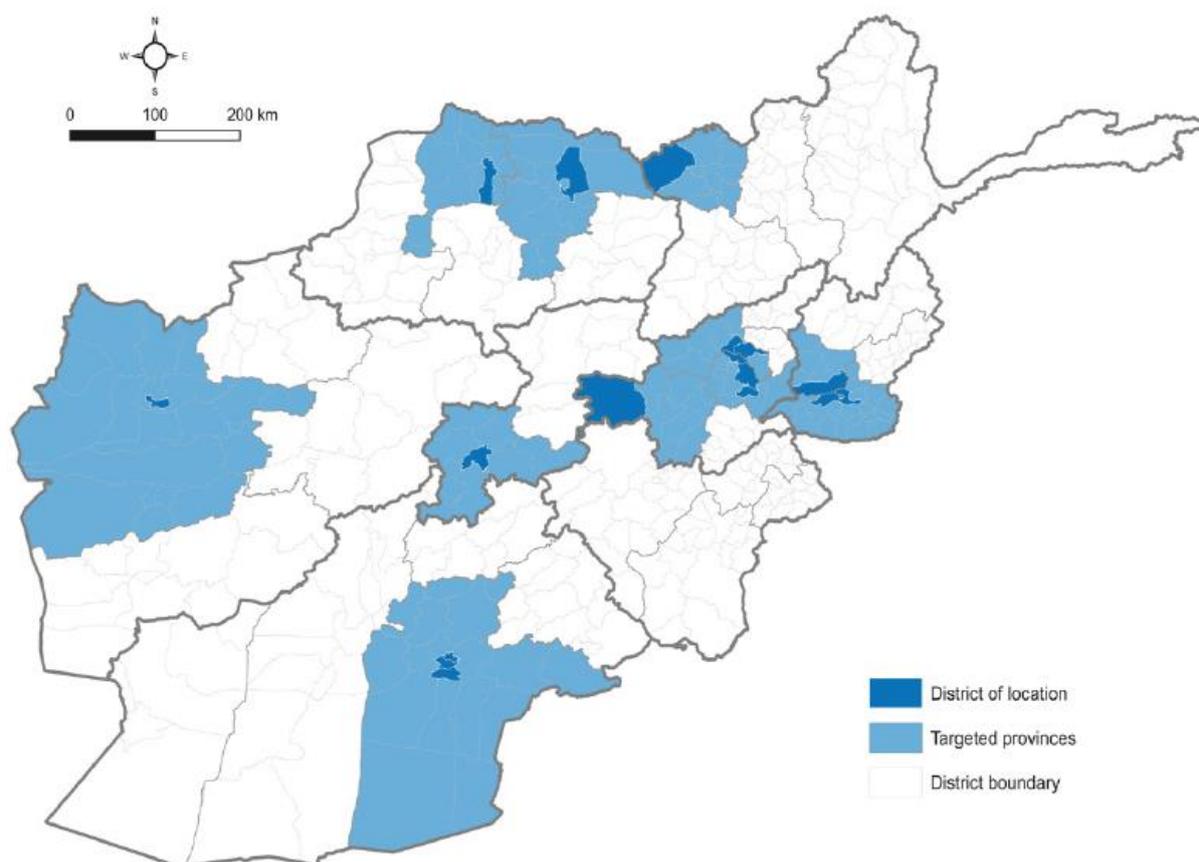
Data Collection Methods

KI and HH level data collection took place between the 21st of February and the 21st of March 2021.

In the 20 locations, 2,039 randomly sampled HHs were interviewed. Findings from the HH survey are representative at the location level and at the overall population of households (HH) level of the 20 PARRs – not by population group. Only HHs that identified as being either refugee-returnees, IDPs, or host community members were interviewed. The HH survey questions aimed to understand the current conditions regarding reintegration, service access, livelihoods opportunities, perceived inclusiveness of the local governance structures, movement intentions, and how the location has or has not changed since the implementation of the Co-PROSPER programme.

Prior to data collection, a trainer-of-trainer process took place, during which seven IMPACT senior field officers were trained remotely on the methodology by the assessment officer and a senior field manager in Kabul. These 7 field officers then returned to their regional basis to train 40 enumerators on the HH tools, and the 20 team leaders on the KI tool.[13]

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[13] Enumerators were trained in IMPACT's five regional bases where the PARR locations are located in Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar, Kandahar, and Herat.

Enumerator teams were structured in teams of seven with one team leader. Each team leader monitored the enumerators in the field and conducted the Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) at the same time in the same location.

All enumerators adhered to IMPACT's global COVID-19 assessment mitigation measures, such as socially-distanced interviews and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), to ensure that enumerators did not become vectors for the virus and inadvertently spread it among the population.[14]

Sampling Strategy

The assessment was composed of a HH interview level tool that assessed a representative sample of HHs in each of the 20 PARR locations, at a 95% confidence level and a 10% margin of error. Results were representative of the population at a site level, and representative for each population group: IDPs, refugee-returnees, and host community at the overall (not location) level.[15]

To conduct the random sampling of HHs in each location, enumerators went to each location, where they started at the approximate edge of the PARR location, and walked towards the centre of the location, interviewing every "x" number of HHs. This "x" number was different for each location and was equivalent to the total number of houses divided by the total sample size. Once the enumerators reached the middle of the location, they would walk back to where they started - skipping the same "x" number of HHs. Table 1 (above) gives the breakdown of the populations of each location and their corresponding sample size.

KIIs were conducted with 168 community leaders with knowledge of their location (9 KIs in 17 locations, 6 in 2 locations, and 3 in 1 location) (table 1). These leaders may have been selected either formally or informally, and represented either refugee-returnees, IDPs, host communities, or a combination of these three groups. As such the aim was to try and have 3 KIs per population group, for approximately 9 interviews for each of the 20 PARR locations. In many cases, community leaders represented more than one population group. The KI survey focused on infrastructure, the presence of services, and stakeholder presence, to provide additional information on each site and location to complement HH survey findings.

Analysis

All of the data was checked and cleaned daily in accordance with IMPACT Data Cleaning Minimum Standards Checklist.[16] The IMPACT data unit downloaded data from the Kobo server, where enumerators uploaded their survey submissions.[17] This data was then checked, cleaned, and analysed by the assessment officer, operations and field teams, and data unit. Various checks verifying the logic of responses were conducted to preserve data quality and were recorded in cleaning logs. Analysis was done according to the Data Analysis Plan which detailed how data would be reported, dis-aggregated, and aggregated (to national and regional levels); additionally, it contained calculations for four composite indicators measuring the four key themes (community leadership inclusivity, strengthening public services and access, livelihoods and economic outlook, and peacebuilding). For a more detailed overview of the four thematic composite indicators, please see Annex 3.

HH data was weighted based on the population per location, and data was reported as a percentage of responses representative of the population. KI data was analysed unweighted as a percentage of KI responses per location, hence KI data should be considered indicative, rather than representative.

For this assessment, a composite indicator for 13 separate measures of progress was calculated from the HH level data to evaluate the impact of the programme on assessed populations. This composite indicator combined the

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[14] IMPACT, SOPs for Data Collection during COVID-19,May 2018.
[15] The global level here refers to the population of the 20 PARR location
[16] IMPACT Data Cleaning Minimum Standards Checklist January 2020
[17] IMPACT, SOPs for Data Collection during COVID-19,May 2018.

reported results from a series of Likert-scale questions[18] ranking overall agreement or disagreement with different questions relating to the composite indicator. These composite indicators were used in turn combined to measure progress over four key objectives. This allowed IMPACT to produce an index for each major indicator, which could be compared against the programme goals. For each composite indicator, the indicators were added up, with each question counting as equal weight, and were then normalized to a 0-1 scale. This scale was then broken into five ordinal categories: "high positive, positive, neutral, negative and high negative."

Challenges and Limitations

The prevalence of the COVID-19 virus and related preventative measures induced logistical limitations. For instance, the training of the senior field officers was done remotely, and limited internet connectivity made it more difficult to carry out the trainings.

Despite efforts to include female perspectives in the findings, the number of female enumerators was limited, and many of the heads of HHs interviewed were male (98%). As such, the conditions, experiences, and needs of women may be underrepresented and such indicators should be treated as cautionary.

As this was the first evaluation of this PARR, and no baseline assessment was conducted before the programme was implemented, it was difficult to specifically pinpoint if and how the locations had changed since the introduction of the Co-PROPSER programme.

The sampling methodology only allowed for stratified sampling between groups at a global level. As such, results from the HH surveys were representative only at the location and overall level for all population groups. Additionally, results are only indicative (not representative) when comparing results between population groups at the location level. KI findings are indicative only.

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[18] Likert scale questions would have the following choices: strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree.

Findings

This section of the report presents the main findings of the assessment relating to the following themes: demographics, community leadership inclusivity, strengthening public services and equitable access, income generation and economic empowerment, peacebuilding and Co-PROPSER programme support and impact of assistance.

1. Demographics

The average reported HH size was found to be 10, and almost all HHs reported to have at least one member with an identity document. On average, IDP HHs had reportedly been living in their current location for an average of 2.8 years, while refugee-returnee HHs had been living in their current location for an average of 5 years, both giving the notion that these HHs less likely had intentions of moving in the near future.

1.1 Overall Population Demographics

Overall, **the sampling population comprised 30% of IDP HHs, 34% of refugee-returnee HHs, and 36% of HHs from the host community.** Almost all 20 locations assessed included all 3 population groups, except for 3 PARR locations that did not have any host communities in their location: Ustad Khalilullah Khalili (Qarabagh district, Kabul province), Noor Abad (Acqcha district, Jawzjan province), Jebrial (Injil district, Herat province). This could suggest that in these locations, host community populations may have been living in a different area than the migrant population groups.

Overall, **the average HH was found to consist of 10 members. This was similar between the population groups,** with refugee-returnee and IDP HHs having on average 9 members, and host community HHs 10 members. Furthermore, **only 2% of HHs reported having a female head of HH.**

Overall, **72% of HHs reported that either most or all of their HH members were in possession of a Tazkera (Afghan personal identification document).** The remaining 28% reported that less than half of their members had a Tazkera, indicating that in these HHs, more family members would have greater dependency on their Tazkera-holding relatives when it comes to accessing certain services.

1.2 Displacement Timelines of IDP HHs

Among IDP HHs, the average time reported since arrival in the current location was 2.8 years, and the average reported time since displacement was 3.7 years. While the majority of IDP HHs reportedly came directly to their current locations and had not moved since then, **17% reported that they had been displaced multiple times.** In general, the East and the Central regions emerged as the main regions where IDPs reported to have been living for more than 3 years (4.3 on average in the East, and 3.8 in the West). Of the 20 PARR locations assessed, findings indicate that IDPs have been living for the longest periods of time in in Charbagh, Laghmani, and Ustad Khalilullah Khalili, compared to other locations (figure 1).

Figure 1: Top three locations with the highest average reported time of stay among IDP HHs at the time of data collection

Order	Province	District	Location	Average reported time
❶	Laghman	Qarghayee	Charbagh	6.6 years
❷	Parwan	Charikar	Laghmani	6.5 years
❸	Kabul	Qarabagh	Ustad Khalilullah Khalili	6.5 years

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1.3 Displacement Timelines of Refugee-returnees

For the refugee-returnees, the average reported length of time they had been staying in the location where they were assessed was 5 years. In general, refugee-returnee HHs in the East and Central regions appeared to have stayed in their current locations particularly long, namely 7.5 and 7.1 years on average, respectively. The longest average times refugee-returnee HHs reported staying in their current PARR location were found in Ustad Khalilullah Khalili, Laghmani, and Shash Pool Qasha (figure 2). It is also worth noting that two of the top three locations with the longest average reported duration of stay for refugee-returnee HHs were the same as for IDP HHs: Ustad Khalilullah Khalili and Laghmani.

The average amount of time most refugee-returnees and IDPs have reportedly been displaced and living in a PARR location (5 years) is intriguing, because that could make them eligible in the Presidential Decree 108 (PD 108) land allocation scheme for displaced persons. Land allocations will be made in new settlements ("townships") on vacant land in peripheral urban areas that meet PD 108 criteria for sustainable settlements.[19]

Figure 2: Top three locations with the highest average reported time of stay among refugee-returnee HHs at the time of data collection

Order	Province	District	Location	Average time of duration
❶	Kabul	Qarabagh	Ustad Khalilullah Khalili	12.8 years
❷	Parwan	Charikar	Laghmani	10 years
❸	Bamyan	Bamyan	Shash Pool Qasha	9.8 years

Among the refugee-returnee HHs, the most commonly reported reasons for returning to a PARR location was a desire to return to a familiar place (24%), and the loss of legal status to stay in a foreign country (21%). The motivation to return to a familiar place was the main reason in the Central region (40%), East (41%) and South (48%). In the other regions, the most reported reason to return were slightly different from the overall findings. In the North, HHs most commonly reported having returned due to security reasons (52%), while, in the West, work opportunities were the main reason (32%), and being reunited with family was, together with loss of legal status, the most commonly reported reason in the North-east (both reported by 33% of refugee-returnee HHs).

1.4 Movement Intentions

Only a few IDP and refugee-returnee HHs reported having any intention to leave their current location (9% and 6% respectively) in the 12 months following data collection, indicating that most HHs had likely established themselves in these locations for the medium to long term. For those who did report the intention to move in the next 12 months, a large majority (67%) reported that they wanted to go to a different place in Afghanistan. **Those HHs who reported having the intention to move, the top reported reasons were to find better job opportunities (63%) and a lack of adequate housing and shelter in their current location (20%).**

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[19] Afghanistan Protection Cluster Meeting Presentation, March 2, 2021 (unpublished)

2. Community Leadership Inclusivity

To assess HHs' perceptions on inclusiveness and representation by community leadership, IMPACT created a composite index to assess the perceptions of HHs towards local governance inclusivity, community trust, community tensions, and effectiveness of community feedback mechanisms. The calculation for this index can be found in annex 3 of this report. The majority of HHs (85%) were found to have a positive or highly positive perception of the inclusiveness and representation of the population by community leadership (see graph 1). This common positive perception was similar across all population groups but tended to vary by region; in the West and South, HHs appeared to have relatively neutral perceptions regarding this matter; and only a few HHs were categorized by the composite index to have had a negative or high negative perception.

Graph 1: Overall HH perceptions on community leadership inclusivity

	High Negative	Negative Perception	Neutral Perception	Positive Perception	High Positive
Community Leader Inclusivity			15%	64%	21%
Community Trust		4%	12%	51%	33%
Community Tensions		3%	33%	50%	14%
Feedback Mechanism	1%	9%	14%	54%	22%
Local Governance		5%	16%	48%	30%
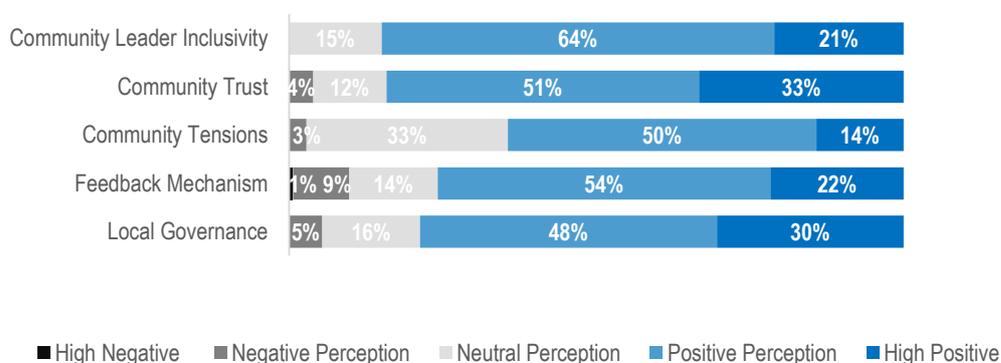
2.1 Local Governance Inclusivity

The overall indicator of local governance inclusivity indicates that 78% of HHs had a positive or high positive perception (graph 1). This indicator includes HH perceptions on the degree to which feedback brought to the community leader was considered and listened to; the degree to which the community leaders listened and responded to all community members equally; and whether community leadership's management of issues benefited every person in the community equally.

Both HHs and KIs commonly reported that community leadership represented the population well and that community leaders were usually selected at the local level. The most common main community leadership structures that HHs reported in their location were Shuras (53%) while 37% reported Arbab/Malik. In the South, in Kandahar, a small but considerable share (15%) of KIs reported that armed groups existed as local governance structures. The presence of armed groups in local governance might be linked to the protection issues reported in similar locations. These issues have been found to have cascading effects, including impositions on local infrastructure, discrimination in accessing to services, and economic hardship.[20]

2.2 Community Trust

In addition to the generally positive perception on local governance inclusivity, findings suggest that **most HHs trust their local governance structures**; 84% of HHs were found to have a positive or highly positive perception of trust in community leadership (graph 1), without much difference between population groups. In addition, **95% of KIs reported believing that all issues managed by the community leadership were handled in a fair and equitable way.**

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[20] Global Protection Cluster, "Protection Brief – Afghanistan (Quarter 1)", March 2021

The situation of community trust was explored through various indicators. In the HH survey, **78% of HHs reported agreeing or strongly agreeing with the fact that they would go to community leaders if they were to experience any issues related to disagreement or conflict**, 84% of HHs agreed or strongly agreed that community leadership is effective in resolving disputes between community members, and 74% of HHs reportedly agreed or strongly agreed that relations between community members and community leadership has improved during the month prior to data collection.

2.3 Feedback Mechanism Effectiveness

In most locations, **a majority of HHs reported being aware of community feedback mechanisms (graph 2) and reportedly believed that community leadership was responsive and handled issues effectively.** There appeared to be no major difference between HHs' displacement status in their reported awareness of feedback mechanisms.

Graph 2: Percentage of HHs reporting being aware of mechanisms in place through which they could provide feedback on issues within their current location

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know
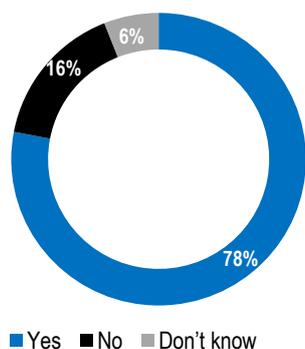
Furthermore, **77% reported that they believed that community leadership manages all issues equally, regardless of ethnicity, displacement status, etc.** Regarding the mechanisms used for that feedback, 64% of HHs reported agreeing or strongly agreeing with the fact that if they have issues, they use the complaint and feedback mechanisms provided. Moreover, of the 78% of HHs who reported being aware of feedback mechanisms in place in their community, the top reported feedback mechanism available was being able to talk to community leadership (figure 3).

Figure 3: Most commonly reported feedback mechanisms available, reported by the 72% of HHs who reported being aware of feedback mechanisms in place in their community

Order	Feedback mechanisms	Percentage of HHs
❶	Talk to community leadership	90%
❷	Phone/SMS reporting line	81%
❸	Community centres	49%

Overall, **76% of HHs had a positive or highly positive perception of the overall effectiveness of feedback mechanisms in their community** (graph 1), and 77% of HHs reported agreeing or strongly agreeing that their feedback or complaints were taken into consideration. Additionally, 73% of HHs either agreed or strongly agreed

with the statement that the feedback mechanisms in place were effective in holding people in charge accountable for their actions.

2.4 Community Tensions

Even if some violent incidents were reported (mainly in the South), the majority of HHs in every region and for every group reported that they did not have strong feelings of insecurity. All the while, **trust and communication between members of the community appeared to be strong, regardless of the status groups**; the majority of HHs (64%) was found to have positive or highly positive perceptions on the level of tension in the community (graph 1). Almost half of HHs (58%) reported agreeing or strongly agreeing that they can trust everyone in their location regardless of their ethnic, religious, or tribal background, and the majority (70%) agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that the communication between the community members and the community leadership/local governance has improved in the year prior to data collection.

Despite the common positive perceptions on the safety in communities, **16% of HHs across locations agreed or strongly agreed that there were continuous incidents involving violence or confrontation between community members who lived in their community**. **This perception differed between the assessed population groups**, with refugee-returnee HHs appearing to agree less frequently with the statement that there were violent incidents in their community (13%) than HHs from the host community (19%).

Even if these incidents were reported, half of the HHs (54%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that there are certain areas in their PARR locations that they try to avoid because of feelings of unsafety. This proportion is considerably lower in the South (23%) and the North-east (23%).

Some internal conflict was reported in all PARR locations, and 63% of KIs across the locations reported that they had managed local disputes or conflicts between different members of the community.

3. Strengthening Public Services and Equitable Access

The creation of this index was composed of indicators relating to perception of HHs of the quality, access, and satisfaction of public services. Overall, 87% of HHs were found to have positive or highly positive perceptions of the access and quality of services, including shelter, health, WASH, and education. In particular, perceptions on service access varied considerably by the type of service and location but appeared relatively similar across the assessed population groups.

Graph 3: Overall HH perception concerning the strengthening of public services and equitable access

Strengthening Public Services and Equitable Access	1% 15%	66%	19%
Service Satisfaction	1% 16%	61%	23%
Service Quality	1% 21%	66%	12%

■ High Negative ■ Negative Perception ■ Neutral Perception ■ Positive Perception ■ High Positive
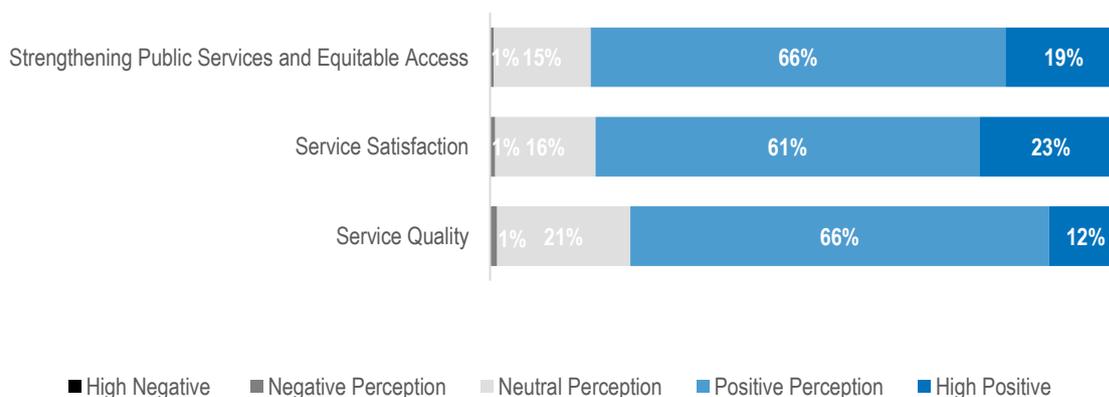
3.1 Service Quality and Satisfaction

Overall, findings suggest that **HHs were generally satisfied with the services available to them, and their quality** (graph 3). Perceptions on equitable service access tended not to vary by displacement status; IDPs, refugee-returnees, and host communities all reported similar levels of satisfaction with services. But, service access varied considerably by region, with specific regions reporting certain issues. Service gaps were more commonly reported in the North, West, and Central regions.

Graph 4: **Overall HH perception of satisfaction and quality of services by region**

West: 23% Neutral Perception, 77% Positive Perception
South: 11% Neutral Perception, 54% Positive Perception, 35% High positive Perception
North East: 9% Neutral Perception, 46% Positive Perception, 45% High positive Perception
North: 52% Neutral Perception, 47% Positive Perception, 1% High positive Perception
East: 12% Neutral Perception, 75% Positive Perception, 13% High positive Perception
Central: 29% Neutral Perception, 63% Positive Perception, 8% High positive Perception

■ Neutral Perception   ■ Positive Perception   ■ High positive Perception

3.2 Shelter

Graph 5: % Of HHs agreeing or disagreeing being satisfied with shelter quality

22% Disagree/Strongly disagree   21% Neither agree nor disagree/Don't know   58% Agree/Strongly agree

■ Disagree/Strongly disagree   ■ Neither agree nor disagree/Don't know
■ Agree/Strongly agree
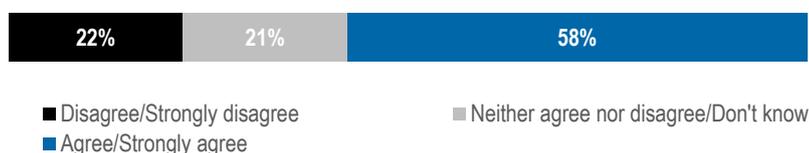
Across the PARR locations, **a majority of HHs reported either agreeing or strongly agreeing that they were satisfied with the quality of their shelter** (graph 5). HHs in the South, as well as IDP HHs, appeared to be relatively less satisfied with the quality of their shelters; 29% and 31% of HHs in the South and IDP HHs, respectively, reported disagreeing or strongly disagreeing being satisfied with the quality of their shelter. Findings suggest that poor perceptions of shelter quality might be linked to limited access to land; similar to findings on quality perceptions, HHs in the South and IDP HHs more commonly reported facing difficulties in finding and accessing land.

Furthermore, half of KIs reported that IDPs and refugee-returnees did not have the same access to shelters as host communities. This might be due to most of the land in the assessed locations being privately owned, as was reported by 81% of KIs.

Regarding eviction, **only 7% of KIs reported that there were any HHs at risk of eviction from their homes in their communities.** This was also supported by most HHs (65%) agreeing with the statement "I feel secure in my household and do not need to worry about eviction of finding a new place to live."

For HHs looking to secure housing or land, **56% of the assessed KIs reported that there were some official legal systems in place to support HHs looking for secure housing or land.** This differed by region, whereas

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in the North, none of the KIs reported the existence of an official legal system and only 21% of KIs from the East reported the existence of such a legal system.

3.3 Healthcare

Graph 6: % of HHs agreeing or disagreeing being satisfied with the quality of healthcare services

21%	23%	56%

- ■ Disagree/Strongly disagree
- ■ Agree/Strongly agree
- ■ Neither agree nor disagree/Don't know
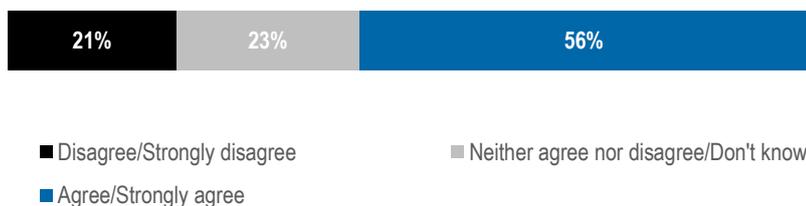
Overall, **56% of HHs either agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the quality of healthcare services they had access to** (graph 6). Moreover, in the KI survey, **70% of the assessed KIs reported the presence of a functioning health centre in the location,** with, among those KIs, the most commonly reported type of health centre being private health clinics (77%). Of the KIs who reported that there was a functioning health centre present in the location, **19% reported that not all people were able to access/use their nearest health centre.** Those KIs who reported that not all people had access **most commonly contributed this to the cost of medicines (28%) and the insufficient capacity of the health centre (28%).**

Compared to other assessed population groups, refugee-returnee HHs seemingly more commonly reported disagreeing with the statement that every member in their community has the same access to healthcare, as 30% of refugee-returnee HHs reported this, compared to 21% of host community HHs and 23% of IDP HHs. Furthermore, a lack of functioning health centres was reported in the Northeast, though most HHs reported being able to access health centres further away.

3.4 Education

Graph 7: % of HHs agreeing or disagreeing being satisfied with the quality of education services

10%	13%	76%

- ■ Disagree/Strongly disagree
- ■ Agree/Strongly agree
- ■ Neither agree nor disagree/Don't know
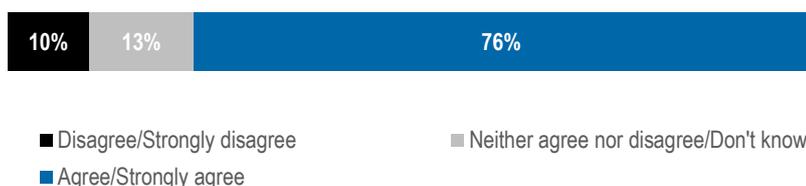
Most HHs in the 20 assessed PARR locations seemed to be generally satisfied with the quality of education (see graph 7). This seems to be reflected by the fact that only 6% of KIs reported that there was no functioning school available in their location.

Despite the apparent accessibility of schools in most locations, 23% of KIs reported that there were girls of school-going age that were not attending school in their location, while a considerably lower proportion (13%) reported that there were boys that were not attending school. Yet, the most reported reasons why KIs believed children were not attending school were similar for girls and boys, the most reported one being that the facilities were too far away.

3.5 Water

Graph 8: % of HHs agreeing or disagreeing with being satisfied with the quality of water access

19%	12%	70%

■ Disagree/Strongly disagree ■ Neither agree nor disagree/Don't know
■ Agree/Strongly agree

Most HHs across the locations reported being satisfied with the quality of their water and access (graph 8). Moreover, water access tended to affect the entire population of each PARR location, regardless of displacement status. For example, approximately half of KIs reported that the main source of drinking water in their location had dried up at least once in the last year, suggesting that the groundwater in some PARR locations may be insufficient to support the population there. The locations based in the North seems to be the worst in term of quality of water access.

4. Income Generation and Economic Empowerment

The income generation and economic empowerment index was composed of indicators relating to perception of HHs' economic outlook, housing and tenure, and women empowerment (figure 9). This composite indicator tended to have lower overall scores than the other composite indicators on community leadership inclusivity, strengthening public services and equitable access, and peacebuilding. HHs' perceptions regarding this indicator appeared to be slightly less positive than other issues surveyed, with a considerable but smaller majority of HHs (58%) having positive perceptions, and 42% appearing to have neutral perceptions.

Graph 9: HH perceptions of income generation and economic empowerment

Income Generation and Economic Empowerment	1%	42%	58%
Land Housing Tenure	8%	30%	42%	19%
Economic Outlook	1% 20%	68%	11% 1%
Women Empowerment	4% 22%	63%	11%

■ High Negative ■ Negative Perception ■ Neutral Perception
■ Positive Perception ■ High Positive
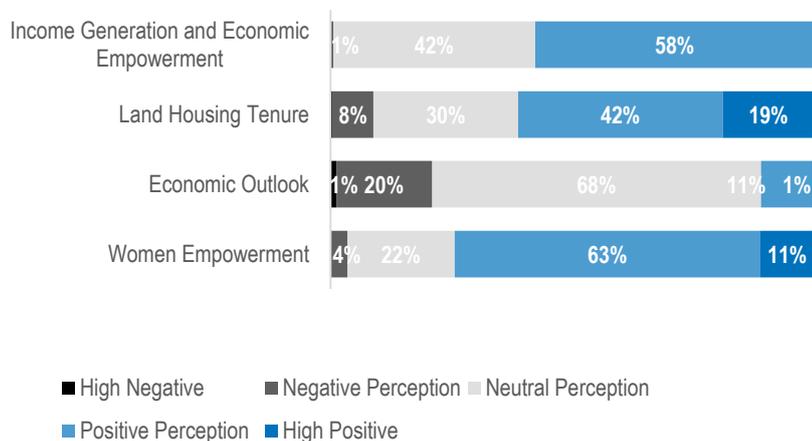
4.1 Economic Outlook

One-fifth (20%) of HHs were found to have a negative perception on the economic outlook; only 12% had a positive or high positive perception (graph 9). This indicator was composed of the perception of job availability, qualifications, distance to places of work, and income. HH answers seemed to commonly hint at a rather pessimistic economic outlook, and HHs appeared to be split on several indicators, such as the ability to find a new job or hire employees, suggesting a segmented and unstable labour market. Together, the overall findings suggest that **employment opportunities are generally low paying and unstable, and the overall economic outlook might be worse for IDPs and refugee-returnee populations given that the average income was lower for**

IDPs and refugee-returnee populations than host community populations. Indeed, regardless of population group or location, at least half of all HHs reported that they thought job opportunities were either stagnant or decreasing in the area where they live (77% in overall). It was the same across locations, except in Ustad Khalilullah Khalili (Qarabagh, Kabul), where a comparatively smaller but still considerable proportion of HHs (37% compared to 78% of HHs overall) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement "if I lose their job, I feel like could easily find other job opportunities".

About half of the HHs agreed or strongly agreed with the fact that existing enterprises or businesses have difficulties finding employees with the right education/technical background. This was especially seen in the East, North, and North-east, where many HHs reported not having proper job qualifications (57%, 53%, and 49% respectively), suggesting that, even when there was a lack of job opportunities, there was a mismatch of skills for the few jobs that were available.

Unskilled labour was the most commonly reported main source of income across most locations (figure 4). The only exception was agriculture, which was commonly reported as the main source by HHs in several locations in Central and Eastern regions, such as in Charbagh (Qarghayee, Laghman) (53%), Qala e Nasro Bini Warsak (Bagram, Parwan) (45%), and Aka Khail Area (Qarabagh, Kabul) (32%).

Figure 4: Most commonly reported main sources of HHs' income

Order	Top 3 main source of income	Percentage of HHs
❶	Unskilled labour	44%
❷	Skilled labour	17%
❸	Agriculture	16%

Host community HHs more commonly reported skilled labour or agriculture as their main source of income than HHs from other groups. Correspondingly, IDP HHs (6,127 AFN on average) and refugee-returnee HHs (6,718 AFN) generally reported lower monthly incomes than host community HHs (8,109 AFN). Regional incomes also varied considerably and may have been linked to more stable employment opportunities (such as agriculture in the East).

4.2 Business Ownership and Opportunities

As mentioned earlier, the majority of the HHs reported receiving their main income from unskilled labour. **However, 16% of the HH respondents reported that they (or a member of their HH) own a business** (graph 10). **Among those HHs, the most commonly reported business sector was the wholesale, retail, hotels, and restaurants sector (44%)** (figure 5, next page). Findings suggest some regional variation, with handicrafts (97%) and communications (55%) being the most commonly reported sectors in the North and South, respectively.

Graph 10: Proportion of HHs reporting that someone in the HH owns a business

Yes No
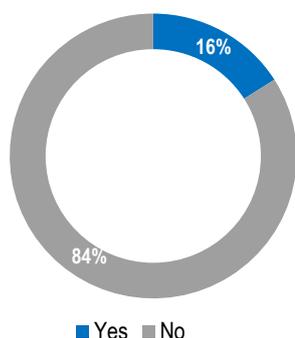
Figure 5: Most commonly reported business sectors, of HHs owning a business

Order	Top 3 main business sector	Percentage of HHs
❶	Wholesale, retail, hotels, restaurants	48%
❷	Handicrafts	17%
❸	Transport	8%

In the locations where agriculture was reported as one of the main sources of income (mainly in Central and Eastern region), HHs did not commonly report having agricultural businesses. In Qala E Nasro Bini Warsak (Bagram district, Parwan province), 50% of the HHs who reportedly owned a business reported having an agricultural business, but this is not the case in Aka Khail area (Qarabagh, Kabul), where 100% of HHs who reportedly own a business reported "wholesale, retail, hotels, and restaurants" as their business sector. These findings suggest that many HHs working in agriculture do not own land and animals themselves, but instead might commonly be employed as farm workers. This agricultural land situation has been highlighted by the World Bank as an issue for rural HHs, in that the low share of agricultural income is mainly due to limited market participation and the high number of unpaid family workers.[21]

There appeared to be a general reported lack of support networks or financial institutions to support HHs with business development: 91% of the HHs who reported having a business, reported that there were no support networks or institutions to help out if they were to need money or resources for their business. This was reflected by responses from KIs, the majority of whom (68%) reported that people who live in their area have no access to financial credit, either loans, microfinance, or other financial support for businesses. Of the 32% of KIs that reported that credit was available, 48% reported that there were specific groups that could not obtain access to credit. Of these 48%, 74% of KIs reported that IDPs did not have access to credit, 48% reported refugee-returnees, 37% reported that women did not have access to credit.

4.3 Land Tenure and Housing

Most HHs (61%) appeared to have positive or highly positive perceptions regarding land tenure and housing security (graph 9, page 25). Findings suggest that these perceptions vary between the assessed population groups, with 21% of IDP HHs having a negative or highly negative perception, compared to only 3% of

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[21] "Leao, Izabela; Ahmed, Mansur; Kar, Anuja. 2018. Jobs from Agriculture in Afghanistan. International Development in Focus;. Washington, DC: World Bank. © World Bank. https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/29312 License: CC BY 3.0 IGO."

the host community HHs. HHs in the South region tended to have a relatively more negative perception (18%), mainly because 50% of the HHs in Mirwais Mina (Police Districts 7&8, Kandahar province) reported this.

This difference in perceptions of various population groups seemed to mainly be due to the fact that IDP HHs commonly had concerns about the risk of eviction, as 41% of IDP HHs reported disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with the statement that they feel secure in their HH and do not worry about eviction or needing to find a new place to live. For refugee-returnee HHs and host communities HHs, these proportions were lower (24% and 18%, respectively). Despite these concerns, most HHs seemed to believe that legal services could help any HH looking for housing or land (49% reported agreeing or strongly agreeing with this statement and only 28% disagreed or strongly disagreed).

Graph 11: Proportion of HHs by type of HH shelter, per population group
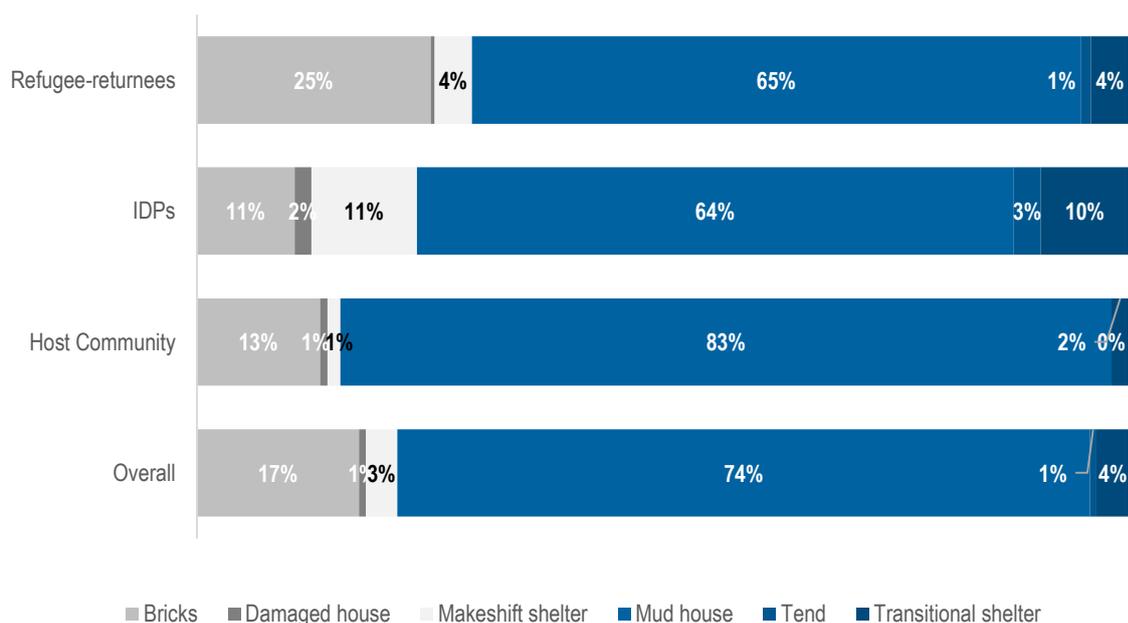
Most HHs reported living in mud shelters (74%) (graph 11). Shelter types varied between population groups; **25% of refugee-returnee HHs reported living in a shelter made of bricks, compared to 13% of the host community and 11% IDPs**. IDPs reported living in makeshift and transitional shelters more commonly than the other population groups. This difference between population groups was reflected in findings on the official documentation for the land HHs had been living on; 60% of IDP HHs reported not having official documentation, while only 18% of host community HHs and 32% for the refugee-returnee HHs reported this. This indicates that there is an unequal access to land for people from different population groups, with IDPs being generally more likely to lack official documentation.

4.4 Women's Empowerment

Overall, women's empowerment seems well perceived throughout the locations. For example, the perceived level of support for women's participation in the education system and access to the job market for young women was found to be positive or high positive for 74% of the HHs, without any major differences between the assessed population groups.

Graph 12: Proportion of HHs agreeing or disagreeing with the following statements on women empowerment

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree/Don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Community leaders are playing an important role to support women	8%	57%	24%	9%	2%
Girls are encouraged to receive the same education as boys	27%	55%	11%	6%	1%
Women can trust leaders' support to play an active role	5%	46%	34%	11%	4%
Women are encouraged to have jobs	6%	40%	32%	15%	7%
Women can be a leader in this location	4%	31%	23%	27%	15%
Women can have a bank account under her name	18%	48%	17%	11%	6%

■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree or disagree/Don't know ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree

The majority of HHs (78%) reported agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement that girls are encouraged and receive the same level and years of education as boys. Overall, in all the population groups, the majority of the HHs agreed or strongly agreed that women are allowed to have a bank account. This was the case for every region, except for the North, where 71% HHs reportedly disagreed with this statement. Additionally, it is worth noting that less than half (48%) of HHs overall agreed or strongly agreed that women are encouraged to have jobs.

Graph 13: Overall HH perceptions of women empowerment, by region

Region	Negative Perception	Neutral Perception	Positive Perception	High Positive
West	6%	1%	16%	77%
South	13%		17%	69%
North East	26%	10%	24%	40%
North	5%	1%	21%	74%
East	8%	5%	30%	57%
Capital	16%	7%	20%	57%

■ Negative Perception ■ Neutral Perception ■ Positive Perception ■ High Positive
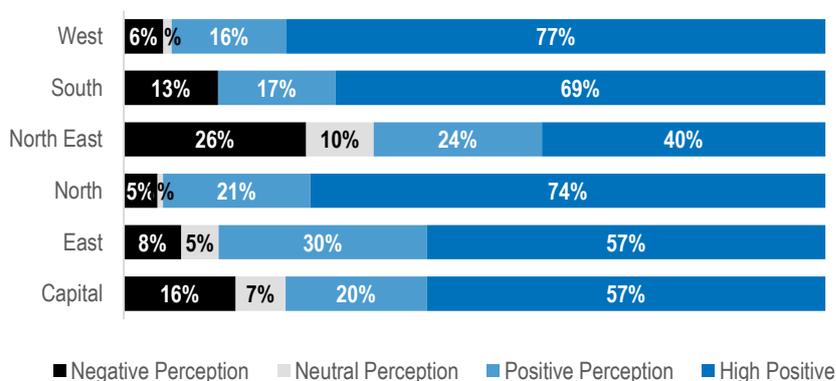
As we can see in graph 13 above, the **perception of women empowerment varied between the regions**. PARR locations in the North-east appeared to have the highest proportion of HHs having negative perceptions towards women's empowerment, followed by PARRs in the Capital (Central) region.

KIs commonly reported that there was a position in community leadership structures reserved for women and that women can start a business, reported by 70% and 63% of KIs, respectively. In the areas where KIs reported that women are unable to start businesses (35%), the top reported reasons for this were a lack of financing (73%), education (63%), and registration (63%), and the fact that women are not able to travel alone, creating obstacles for them (56%). Looking at this indicator regionally, there were some key variations that were specific to certain regions; most of the KIs who reported that women are not allowed to start a business were from the Northeast and South region. In the Central and East regions, KIs relatively commonly reported that women were more likely to face repercussions for starting a business.

5. Peacebuilding

Overall, HHs tended to have a strong sense of trust in their community. When faced with issues, they commonly reported believing that their leaders could handle such issues efficiently and equally. Findings suggest that incidents were mostly believed to be due to internal disputes about land or businesses, or crime rather than broader group tensions.

The composite indicator to assess peacebuilding included measures of group coexistence, leadership legitimacy, stability and conflict perception. The majority of HHs (87%) appeared to have a positive or highly positive perception towards peacebuilding in their location (graph 14), particularly in the North-east and East regions. While many HHs raised individual security concerns, inter-communal relations were generally reported to be good, though appeared slightly worse in the South, West, and North regions. There were no considerable differences between the difference displacement groups assessed in their perceptions on intercommunal relations and peacebuilding.

Graph 14: Overall HH perceptions towards peacebuilding
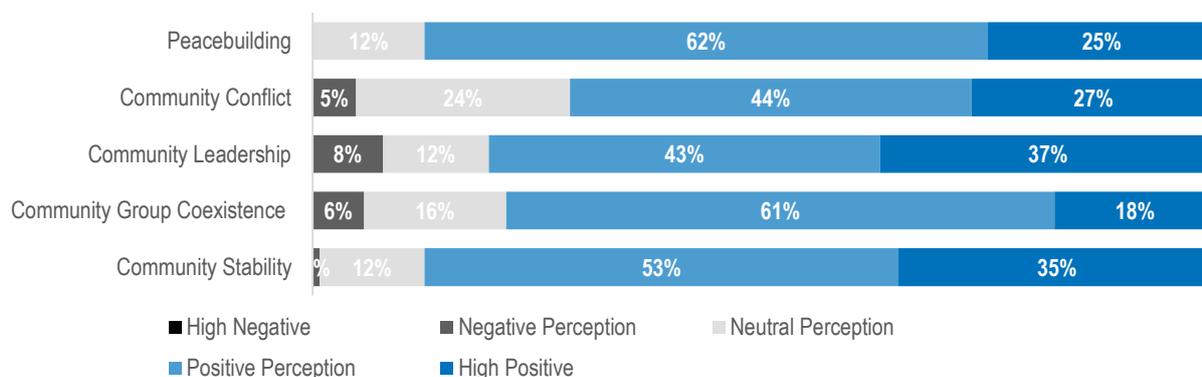
5.1 Community Coexistence

The composite indicator on community group coexistence highlights that the majority of HHs perceive this as either positive or highly positive (79%) (graph 14). This was seen across population groups. The overall positive perception was driven by HHs commonly agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statements that community leaders take measures to strengthen relations between different groups (78%) and that the community leadership represents all community members and groups (84%).

Overall, HHs showed confidence in community leadership as representatives of their communities, and believed that community leadership played a positive role in resolving disputes and reducing conflict; 76% of HHs either agreed or strongly agreed that the community leadership would support them during a disagreement, and 79% of households believed that the community leadership played an important role in solving conflict in the community. This positive perception toward community coexistence was also evident in the KI survey, with only 3% of KIs across PARR locations reporting that complaints from all groups were not managed the same way in their community.

5.2 Conflict in the Community

Overall, 38% of households reported that there were local disputes or conflicts in the community. These reported disputes and conflicts were reported by HHs to be mainly due to land conflict, which and was reported relatively equally among population groups.

This was supported by reports from KIs, who reported that the greatest concern over conflict was fear for personal safety (61%). These conflicts were further reported to mainly be related to criminality and business disputes, particularly around personal safety and crime, rather than more intractable disputes between population groups/ethnicities (figure 6). This mirrors the reporting of KIs, who also highlighted these situations as the main drivers of conflict in their communities (figure 6). The typical actors reported to be involved in such disputes (especially related to crime and land disputes) reflected this since HHs and KIs both reported that land owners were the top actor in disputes (67% and 35% respectively) as well as the other main actors being reported as households, gangs and youth.

Figure 6: The most commonly reported reasons for local conflict, by % KIs and % of HHs reporting that there has been a dispute or conflict in the 20 PARR locations

Order	Top 3 reasons for local conflict	Percentage of KIs	Percentage of HHs
❶	Dispute over lands	47%	79%
❷	Dispute over money	18%	60%
❸	Crime/theft	15%	36%

Community leadership was reported to be instrumental in resolving conflicts. **When asked about what they would do in the event of a conflict, 80% of HHs reported that they would go to their local community leaders;** community leadership was seen to be effective in resolving disputes between community members by 84% of HHs. Furthermore, two thirds of KIs reported that they were able to efficiently resolve such issues. The main reasons for internal conflict and main conflict actors were similar among HHs and KIs, with business disputes and criminality emerging as the most reported reasons.

Furthermore, 65% of HHs agreed or strongly agreed with the **statement "I expect that the situation in my location will be peaceful in the next year", with the highest proportion of HHs reporting this (97%) in the North-east region. followed by the Capital (Central) region (78%) and the South (62%) and West (60%).**

5.3 Community Stability

The level of stability within the community appears to be perceived as positive or highly positive by 87% of the HHs, and there appeared to be a general trust in security authorities to deal with the disputes equally and efficiency. Indeed, within the peacebuilding section, this was the indicator with the most positive overall response.

Findings suggest that HHs tend to trust the security authorities, with 83% of HHs agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement that the presence of police or other security actors contributed to their feeling of safety, and 76% agreeing or strongly agreeing that the authorities could deal with crime, disputes, or threats to the community when needed. HHs also generally agreed (84%) with the statement that community leaders have the capacity to play a positive role in dealing with disputes within the greater community in their location.

In addition, authorities seem to be well-perceived in terms of equally representing different population groups; the majority of HHs across population groups reported agreeing or strongly agreeing that all communities in the area are equally represented in local government bodies (78%). This sense of community stability might be further by the 69% of the KIs reporting that, when their community faced conflict, the relevant issues at the root of the conflict were solved permanently.

5.4 Community Leadership Legitimacy

Overall, findings suggest that HHs are confident in community leadership as representatives of their communities, and believe that community leadership plays a positive role in resolving disputes and reducing conflict.

The level of legitimacy of community leaders in dealing with conflicts within their respective communities was perceived to be positive or highly positive by 80% of the HHs. Most HHs reported finding the local leadership to be supportive and respectful and showed high leadership legitimacy. This may be linked to the leadership's role in sustaining and providing equitable peace between different members of the community; 75% of HHs reported agreeing that community leadership would trust their side of a disagreement, and 75% agreed with the statement that the leadership has the capacity to play a key role in solving conflicts between groups.

However, despite HHs seeming to trust the leadership and its capacity to solve the issues, only 12% of KIs who reported that the community faced conflict (63%), reported that conflict-related issues that to be referred up to district or provincial level authority were referred most of the time or about half time, while 43% of KIs reported that this was rarely or never done.

6. Programme Support and Impact of Assistance

A lack of livelihood opportunities seemed to be the main problem for most HHs (figure 10) – especially amongst IDP and refugee-returnee HHs. Insecurity was the next most commonly reported problem, but this seemed to be the greatest issue for PARR locations in the South. Access to services (water, healthcare, and education) was less reported as the main problem for the community, with the exceptions in the North-east (water) and North (healthcare) (figure 10). Limited integration of IDPs and refugee-returnee HHs was also not seen as the greatest problem in most PARR locations, according to the assessed HHs.

Figure 7: Main problems for the community reported by the HHs per region

	Livelihood	Insecurity	Water	Healthcare	Not Integrated	Education	Leadership	Other	Shelter
Overall	62%	9%	14%	8%	2%	3%	1%	1%	0%
Central	63%	4%	22%	6%	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%
East	76%	2%	10%	4%	0%	5%	1%	2%	0%
North	38%	13%	10%	38%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%
North East	40%	0%	41%	9%	5%	2%	3%	0%	0%
South	40%	42%	0%	5%	6%	4%	1%	0%	0%
West	88%	4%	3%	3%	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%

6.1 Assistance Received

While nearly half (43%) of HHs reported not being aware of United Nations (UN) agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in the area, the majority of HHs (85%) reported having received assistance in the 12 months prior to data collection, suggesting that they had gotten it either indirectly or from other locations.

Graph 15: Types of assistance received in the year prior to data collection, by proportion of HHs
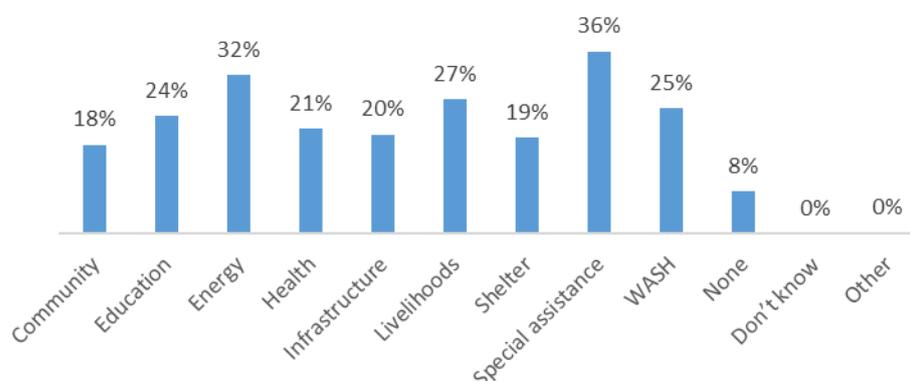
All population groups, regardless of their displacement status, appeared to be similarly likely to be aware of UN/NGO programmes or to have received aid. The main type of assistance HHs reported having received in the year prior to data collection was special (ad-hoc) assistance (36%), followed by Energy (32%) and Livelihoods (27%).

6.2 Impact of Assistance Received

The majority of HHs (85%) reported receiving assistance in the 12 months prior to data collection. Of these, 69% reported that the aid had slightly improved their overall wellbeing. When those who had received assistance were asked about why the assistance had been helpful, the two main ways in which assistance had reportedly supported HHs were 1) that it helped improve livelihood opportunities (66%) and 2) that it improved access to services (64%) e.g. healthcare, water, education, etc.

Graph 16: Reported impact of assistance on HH well-being, according to HHs who reported having received aid in the year prior to data collection

■ Yes a lot ■ Yes a little ■ Not changed ■ Worse
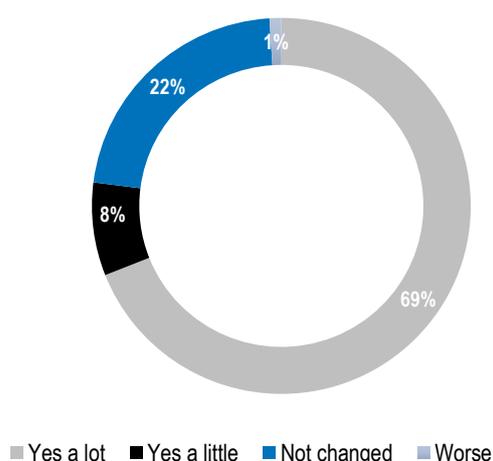
Concerning the community development initiatives, **around half of HHs (49%) reported not being able to provide input on any community development projects that were ongoing in the area**. However, among those HHs that reported that they had been able to provide feedback, it was reported that they had mostly been consulted for community development planning programmes (43%).

6.3 Training

Only 14% of HHs reported having attended any kind of training in the year prior to data collection, and the types of training reportedly received included those related to business, handicraft, agriculture, and training of teachers (figure 21). Three of the top four training types reportedly received by HHs were also types of training that HHs reported finding useful for the labour market.

Figure 8: Top 4 training received by the HHs in the last year, by % of HHs who had received training

Order	Top 4 training received by the HHs	Percentage of HHs
❶	Healthcare	41%
❷	Handicraft	39%
❸	Training of teachers	37%
❹	Business	35%

Figure 9: Most commonly reported types of vocational training that HHs reported would be useful for the labour market

Order	Top 4 training that would be useful for the HHs	Percentage of HHs
❶	Handicraft	79%
❷	Business	60%
❸	Agriculture	50%
❹	Healthcare	41%

Conclusion

To respond to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the returns of refugees in the country from Pakistan and Iran in 2016, the UNHCR and the Government of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) implemented a series of programmes to provide durable solutions for returnee and long-term displaced populations. Their Co-PROSPER programme, in particular, was conducted in 20 priority areas of return and reintegration (PARR) locations. To provide evidence on the impact of the Co-PROSPER programme on the 20 PARR locations, and support future programme design, IMPACT conducted an evaluation assessment among HHs in 20 PARR locations where the programme in question was implemented

Regarding local community dynamics, relations between the different population groups appeared to be positive overall, with no major issues reported. Community leadership structures were generally regarded to be inclusive, and most HHs, regardless of displacement status or region, were reportedly satisfied with their leadership and its responsiveness. Areas where leadership inclusivity was perceived to be more limited tended to be locations where relations between displaced and host communities appeared to be relatively poorer, such as in the West and South.

Encouragement of female inclusion in leadership seemed to depend upon the local culture; HHs in PARR locations in the North, Northeast, Central, and West appeared to be more open to female leadership and more commonly believed women could be leaders than HHs in other locations. HHs in these locations also more commonly reported the existence of particular spots in community leadership structures that were designated for women.

Overall HH perceptions of access to and quality of public services were generally positive, yet some gaps concerning specific sectors and between population groups and regions were flagged. HHs living in the South and IDP HHs, for instance, appeared to relatively more commonly have negative perceptions of the quality of shelters, particularly related to access to land. Access to healthcare and the quality health personnel were found to be perceived less positively all HHs, and access to water was reportedly limited in many locations.

On the topic of income generation and economic empowerment, findings highlighted an overall lack of livelihood opportunities and business financial support. The majority of HHs reported their main source of income to be unskilled labour, and some HHs particularly flagged that a lack of qualifications limited access to jobs, suggesting targeted skills training could be helpful to increase access to the labour market. Among the HHs that reported owning a business, being able access financial help was as commonly reported a barrier. Furthermore, IDP and refugee-returnee HHs appeared to be economically worse off than host community HHs, which might be due to their displacement, leaving them generally less well-established, and likely possessing fewer accessible assets than host community HHs.

Overall, a considerable minority of HHs reported being aware of any conflict in their community. **Most reported incidences of disputes or conflict in the PARR communities appeared to be linked to criminality and personal disputes over land or business, rather than an ethnic group or displacement status**, suggesting that violence was more often connected to reasons related to poor livelihoods rather than other factors.

When looking at the main impact of the CBP programmes in the assessed PARR locations, **the majority of HHs who had received assistance in the year prior to data collection reported having experienced some improvement to their overall well-being as a result of the assistance**. Moreover, trainings that were reportedly received by HHs seemed to be aligned with the types of trainings HHs reported believing to be useful.

Overall, findings indicate that displaced persons are relatively well-integrated and that assistance received by HHs did have some positive impact, All of the PARRs have organic community leadership structures that inspire confidence in the population, particularly around inclusive leadership and peacebuilding. However, the main reported needs for assistance in PARR locations seemed to reflect the deficiencies in service access or livelihoods

conditions, suggesting that these locations had been facing systemic issues around service provision and the local economy.

But as the situation in Afghanistan continues to evolve, it is likely that some of the key issues that emerged during this assessment, such as unstable sources of livelihoods and limited service access, could worsen. Considering that recent increases in conflict could lead to more displacement, it is possible for more displaced persons to come to PARRs, where the security situation may be perceived to be a bit better.[22] Continued research would be helpful to confirm this hypothesis and assess the impact of UNHCR's Co-PROSPER on communities in these PARRs as the situation evolves.

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[22] United Nations Security Council, As Taliban Offensive Escalates, Afghanistan at Dangerous Turning Point, Special Representative Warns Security Council amid Calls for Ceasefire, Aid Access, SC/14596, 8831ST Meeting, 6 August 2021.

Annex.1 table of location and number of population and interviews

S.No.	Region	Province	District	Location	Total Population				HHI Sample	KII Sample			
					IDPs	Refugees and returnees	Host Community	Total	Total HHI	IDPs	Refugees and returnees	Host Community	Total KII
1	Central Highlands	Bamyan	Bamyan	Shash Pool and Qashqa	3,351	14,758	67,375	85,484	101	3	3	3	9
2		Daikundi	Center	Nilli	700	3,500	5,550	9,750	100	3	3	3	9
3	Central	Kabul	PD 21	Tarakhail Daag	8,625	26,025	4,200	38,850	101	3	3	3	9
4		Kabul	PD 21	Ghaziabad	3,500	5,250	3,050	11,800	100	3	3	3	9
5		Kabul	Qarabagh	Aka Khail Area	700	7,670	18,500	26,870	101	3	3	3	9
6		Parwan	Charikar	Laghmani	90	2,060	12,900	15,050	100	3	3	3	9
7		Kabul	Qarabagh	Ustad Khalilullah Khalili	1,260	6,650.00	-	7,910	100	3	3	-	6
8		Parwan	Bagram	Qala-e-Nasro & Bini Warsak	4,130	19,180	2,100	25,410	101	3	3	3	9
9	Eastern	Nangarhar	PD 4	Majboorabad	7,500	90,000	52,500	150,000	101	3	3	3	9
10		Laghman	Qarghayee	Charbagh	9,000	18,000	33,000	60,000	101	3	3	3	9
11		Nangarhar	Behsud	Daman	10,500	70,000	59,500	140,000	101	3	3	3	9
12		Nangarhar	Surkhroad	Shekh Mesri	24,800	38,400	7,700	70,900	101	3	3	3	9
13		Laghman	Qarghayee	Aziz Khan Kas	8,500	38,760.00	18,540.00	65,800	101	3	3	3	9
14	Northern	Jawzjan	Acqcha	Noor Abad	700	3,150	-	3,850	99	3	3	-	6
15		Balkh	Nahr-e-Shahi	Sakhi Camp & Qalin Bafan	4,900	10,500	5,250	20,650	101	3	3	3	9
16		Kunduz	Imam Sahib	Sher Khan Bandar	1,456	10,185	13,209	24,850	101	3	3	3	9
17	Southern	Kandahar	PD 9 & 12	Loya Wala	31,502	4,900	286,825	323,227	101	3	3	3	9
18		Kandahar	PD 7 & 8	Mirwais Mina	13,808	6,000	98,998	118,806	101	3	3	3	9
19	Western	Herat	Injil	Kahdistan	5,000	3,400	9,600	18,000	101	3	3	3	9
20		Herat	Injil	Jebrial	-	130,000	-	130,000	101	-	3	-	3
GRAND TOTAL					140,022	508,388	698,797	1,347,207	2,014	57	60	51	168

Annex 2. Main issues in the community as reported by HHs in the 20 locations. March 2021

	Livelihood	Insecurity	Water	Healthcare	Education	Limited Integration	Leadership	Electricity	Infrastructure	Shelter	Other
All	61%	21%	6%	5%	4%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Host	49%	31%	6%	5%	3%	3%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
IDP	62%	19%	6%	5%	4%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Returnee	73%	11%	7%	5%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Central	75%	3%	13%	4%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
East	78%	1%	9%	4%	5%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
North	25%	5%	14%	55%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
North-east	40%	0%	41%	9%	2%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
South	30%	59%	0%	3%	3%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
West	88%	3%	1%	4%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Aka Khail Area	83%	3%	8%	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Aziz Khan Kas	72%	0%	5%	0%	12%	1%	0%	10%	0%	0%	0%
Charbagh	83%	9%	1%	3%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Daman	80%	0%	8%	4%	4%	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%
Ghaziabad	51%	0%	23%	26%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Jebrail	88%	3%	1%	4%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Kahdistan	87%	5%	4%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Laghmani	59%	23	18	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Loya Wala	19%	78	0%	0%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Majboorabad	84%	0%	0%	8%	6%	0	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Mirwais Mina	62%	7%	0%	11%	7%	11%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Nilli	50%	4%	32%	3%	0%	10%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Noor Abad	58%	26%	3%	11%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Qala e Nasro Bini Warsak	89%	5%	0%	1%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Sakhi Camp Qalin Bafan	19%	1%	16%	63%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Shash Pool Qasha	87%	0%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	3%	0%
Shekh Msri	59%	0%	38%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sher Khan Bandar	40%	0%	41%	9%	2%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Tarakhail Daag	66%	0%	12%	12%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Annex 3. Composite indicator

For this assessment, a composite indicator for 13 separate measures of progress were calculated from the HHI results. This composite indicator combined the reported results from a series of Likert-scale questions ranking overall agreement or disagreement with different questions relating to the composite indicator (shown in the right-hand column). These composite indicators were used in turn combined to measure progress over four key objectives. This allowed IMPACT to produce an index for each major indicator, which could be compared against the programme goals. For each composite indicator, the indicators were added up, with each question counting as equal weight, and were then normalized to a 0-1 scale. This scale was then broken into five ordinal categories based on rank, as seen in the centre column below.

Calculation of the composite indicator	Likert scales	Ranking
Step 1: For each indicator, average of the response	Strongly disagree: 1 Disagree: 2	0 – 0.20 = High negative perception 0.21 – 0.4 = Negative perception
Step 2: Normalize the score of the average response and divide by the total	Neither agree nor disagree: 3	0.41 – 0.6 = Neutral perception 0.61-0.8 = Positive perception
Step 3: Report this score on the ranking	Agree: 4	0.81 – 1 = High positive perception
Step 4: Calculate the % of the result for each ranking for each indicator of the composite index	Strongly agree: 5 I do not know : NA	
Step 5: The higher the score is, better the perception by HHs	Refuse to answer: NA	

Index	Indicators	Questions/Statements	Answers	Values
INDEX 1 Community Leadership Inclusivity	Indicator 1 Local Governance Inclusivity	I think that when I bring feedback or complaints to community leaders, my feedback is considered and listened to	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I believe that the community leadership responds to all HHs in {location} equally, regardless of tribe, displacement status or gender	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I believe that community leadership's management of issues benefits everyone in the community equally	Likert scale	1-5,NA
	Indicator 2 Community Trust	In cases of tension or disagreement with those outside my community, I would go to community leadership to solve the issues experienced	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		In my experience, the community leadership are effective in resolving disputes between community members	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		The situation in {location} in terms of relations between the community members and community leadership has improved through the past month	Likert scale	1-5,NA

	Indicator 3 Feedback Mechanism Effectiveness	When I have issues that I need addressed, I use the complaint and feedback mechanisms provided	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I think that the feedback mechanisms are an effective way of holding people in charge accountable for their actions	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I am confident that any complaint, suggestion or comment submitted through the mechanism will get a response	Likert scale	1-5,NA
	Indicator 4 Community Tensions	There are frequent disputes between community members in {location} that create tensions between many people in the whole community	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I can trust everyone living in {location} community regardless of their ethnic, religious, or tribal background	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		The communication between the community members and the community leadership/local governance has improved over the past year	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		The ideas of some members of the community in ${location} are in conflict with other community members	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		There are continuous incidents involving violence or confrontation between community members who live in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		Certain areas in {location} I prefer to try to avoid because I do not feel safe	Likert scale	1-5,NA
INDEX 2 Strengthening Public Services and Equitable Access	Indicator 5 Service Quality	I am satisfied with the quality of shelter that my HH and I live in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I am satisfied with access to healthcare and the treatment that is available for myself or my HH in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		The health personnel at the health centres in {location} are well trained	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		My HH has a secure income from employment that is able to cover my basic needs	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I am satisfied with the quality of education that exists for children in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA

		I am satisfied with my HH's access to sufficient water in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I feel my rights as a community member are respected by the local authorities in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
	Indicator 6 Service Satisfaction	I can rely on the available services in healthcare that are provided in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I can rely on the available services in education that are provided in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I can rely on the available water services that are provided in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I am satisfied with access to healthcare and the treatment that is available for myself or my HH in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		Every community member has the same access to services that are available for healthcare in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		Every community member has the same access to services that are available for education in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		Every community member has the same access to services that are available for water in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I feel that community leadership is making an effort to be accountable to the wider community living in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I believe that the community leadership is providing resources in a way that is beneficial for the larger community	Likert scale	1-5,NA
INDEX 3 Income Generation and Economic Empowerment	Indicator 7 Women's Empowerment	Community leaders are playing an important role in supporting women in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		Girls are encouraged and receive the same level and years of education as boys in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		Women can trust the community (leaders) supportiveness to play an active role in the {location} community	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		Women are being more and more encouraged to find a job in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		A woman can be a leader in {location}, just like a man can	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		A woman in {location} is allow to have a bank account	Likert scale	1-5,NA

	Indicator 8 Economic Outlook	There are a growing number of jobs available in the area where I live	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I believe that the community leadership is providing resources in a way that is beneficial for the larger community	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I, or other members of my HH, are thinking of moving somewhere else for employment/to find a job that meets our needs or skills	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		If I lost my job, I feel like I could find other job opportunities easily	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		The opportunities in the market are becoming better, with better salaries	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I, or other members of my HH, have to travel long distances for employment/to find a job	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		It is more difficult for me and members of my HH to find a job than other HHs in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		Existing enterprises or businesses have difficulties finding employees with the right education/technical background in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I am confident my HH will have a secure income in the coming 12 months	Likert scale	1-5,NA
	Indicator 9 Land and Housing Tenure	I feel secure in my HH and do not worry about eviction or needing to find a new place to live	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		Anyone who moves here from outside of {location} can easily access land or housing if they need it	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		Legal services are able to help any HH looking for housing or land	Likert scale	1-5,NA
INDEX 4 Peacebuilding	Indicator 10 Community Group Coexistence	Certain population groups/community members are not accepted in the community because of conflict-related grievances	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		Community leaders are taking measures to strengthen relations between different groups within {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		The community leadership represent all community members and groups within {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		If I need the support of the community leader to solve an	Likert scale	1-5,NA

		issue, I trust that "my side" of the story will be heard		
	Indicator 11 Community Leadership Legitimacy	The community leadership plays an important role in solving conflicts with other groups in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		In cases of disagreement with those outside of ${location}, I can go to my community leaders for assistance	Likert scale	1-5,NA
	Indicator 12 Community Stability	The presence of police or other security actors in {location} contribute to my feeling of safety	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I feel that the authorities can deal with crime, disputes, or threats to the community when needed	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		The community leadership have the capacity to play a positive role in dealing with disputes within the greater community in {location}	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		All communities in the area are equally represented in local government bodies	Likert scale	1-5,NA
	Indicator 13 Conflict in the Community	There is currently conflict between different groups in the community	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I avoid contact with certain groups or community members due to previous conflicts or disagreements	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		I expect the situation in {location} to be peaceful over the next year	Likert scale	1-5,NA
		There are violent incidents in {location} that affect my HH's physical safety	Likert scale	1-5,NA