



PAST PERFORMANCE

CASH GRANT EFFECTIVENESS

UNHCR - November 2017

SUMMARY

Over 6 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan since 2002, of whom 5.2 million have received a repatriation cash grant from the UNHCR's Voluntary Repatriation Program (VRP). Over 2.5 million registered Afghan refugees still remain in Pakistan and Iran. Cash grant is a medium to meet the immediate needs of the returnees for food, shelter, and other short-term necessities to reduce their vulnerability and support reintegration.

UNHCR worked with Moore Afghanistan to evaluate and address the impact, efficiency, and cost effectiveness of the repatriation cash grant, as well as its role in the reintegration of returnees. Moore Afghanistan also provided recommendations for the development of better strategies and tools for the program.



6M returned

5.2M received grants

2.5M still outside

BACKGROUND

UNHCR uses cash-based interventions to provide protection, assistance and services to the most vulnerable. Cash and vouchers help the displaced meet a variety of needs, including access to food, water, healthcare, shelter, that allow them to build and support livelihoods, and to facilitate voluntary repatriation.

Almost half a million refugees from Iran and Pakistan returned to Afghanistan between January 2015 and December 2017. Under UNHCR's facilitated Voluntary Repatriation Program (VolRep), these returnees received a cash grant in order to cover transport and facilitate reintegration into local communities.

To improve the effectiveness of this intervention, UNHCR needed to know the impact of these grants. For this, they required the services of a professional firm to conduct this social research.

The social world is complex and dynamic. To understand the causes and effects of these changes, research in social science comes in. Moore Afghanistan has extensive experience in unraveling the root causes of social problems and developing solutions to these problems in Afghanistan. Through

our Research Division, we have served clients in all sectors—public, private, and other non-profit organizations in researching social science.

Moore Afghanistan worked with UNHCR in evaluating the impact of cash grants that they distributed to the refugees between January 2015 and December 2017. According to UNHCR, over 489,000 Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan between January 2015 and December 2017. All of these refugee returnees have received a cash grant under UNHCR's facilitated Voluntary Repatriation Program (VolRep). Comprised of a transport and a reintegration amount, the cash grants were meant to help returnees cover their transportation expenditures to get to their destinations in Afghanistan, meet their immediate needs, and reintegrate into the local communities.

Building on a study carried out by Altai Consulting in 2009, UNHCR worked with Moore Afghanistan to evaluate the impact, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of the repatriation cash grant as well as its role in the return and reintegration of returnees. The study design provided UNHCR with recommendations for the development of better, more cost-effective strategies for the program.



OUR ROLE

Moore Afghanistan was expected to research the impact, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of UNHCR's cash grant initiative intended to ease homecoming for refugees returning to communities across all of Afghanistan, including to conflict-affected provinces, within a data collection timeframe limited to a single month.

Moore Afghanistan conducted a mixed method to collect data. We then used regression analysis to examine the relationship between cash grants and other variables of interest.

Moore Afghanistan, in close cooperation with UNHCR and its field staff combined quantitative and qualitative methodologies to collect data from returnees across seven provinces.

Drawing on our pool of 1,500 consultants in all 34 Afghan provinces, our firm was able to interview over 3,000 returnees in order to reach a representative sample of returnees even in conflict-affected Kandahar, Balkh, and Kunduz.

Moore Afghanistan conducted 3,019 individual interviews with beneficiaries—of which 1,460 were

men, and 1,559 were women—selected through random sampling combined with systematic sampling.

Moore Afghanistan conducted fourteen Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with 39 male and 39 female participants and 27 key informants' interviews with UNHCR staff and partners, UN agencies, donor organizations, and the Afghan government.

Data collection took place between January 6th and 31st, 2018. Moore Afghanistan used regression analysis using panel data to measure the impact of UNHCR's cash grants.

The independent variable was the amount of cash grant and other necessary variables affecting the dependent variable. The dependent

variable was the level of reintegration of the beneficiaries.

THE OUTCOME

As a result of this assignment, UNHCR received a comprehensive report that they then used in their strategic decision making.

We provided UNHCR with critical information on the accessibility of the cash grants, their appropriateness and importance to returnee families. Our analysis of the effectiveness and efficiency of the grants as well as the initiative's impact on reintegration was able to inform the client's follow-on decisions as well as Afghan Government policies concerning vulnerable returnee populations.





لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله
الله أكبر
رسول الله

د هرات نړیوال هوایی د مرکز

ن هوایی بین المللی هرات خوش آمدید

For more information, please call +93 796 000 111
email info@moore.af or visit us at www.moore.af

 **MOORE** Afghanistan

www.moore.af

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