



Regional Updates

Balkh, Herat, Jawzjan, Kabul and Nangarhar

National HLP TF, 22 **April** 2014, Kabul

Nangarhar: **Lower Sheikh Misri** (refugee-returnees)

- Earlier reported: land owned by Canal Department. Water and Electricity Department builds a **power supply sub-station**.
- **413** families (8th-year residents) under **threat of eviction** (DoRR, Water Dep't, Police) since December 2013 (posponed only during winter).
- **Alternative sites** not suitable and/or disputed (Khanake, North-East Lower Sheikh Misry). Temporary solution (Park sanatee) useless – residents **don't want to move** (as it's informal settlement)
- NRC and UNHCR yet to meet DoRR and families for further relocation plans...



Nangarhar: **Hisarshahi camp** (IDPs)

- Not a Land Allocation Scheme (under Decree 104) but **municipal** project for housing IDPs.
- **Prices** significantly higher than in LAS – 25-30,000 AFS per land plot. Advocacy (with municipalities, DoRR/MoRR) needed to reduce the prices.
- **Consultation** needed with IDPs about relocation options (to avoid IDPs' rejection of relocation to a deserted area or significantly smaller land plots)
- Land titles should be substituted by **occupancy rights documents** to avoid land plot trading.

Balkh: **Qalin Bafan** LAS (refugee returnees)

- All prior issues resolved – shelter assistance pending (NRC)
- 90 (out of 100) beneficiaries selected so far
- Sorting out soil issues and completion of land documents ongoing
- Onset of works: early May 2014.



Jawzjan: IDP township

- Reported earlier (in 2013): IDPs had problems with **high price** of land plots (similar to Qalin Bafan, 9,000 AFS) and no possibility to pay in **installments** (MoRR rejected both)
- MoRR initially reduced the plot **price to half** (4,500 AFS) – a result of an admin **mistake** (plots' size was wrongly described as 3 not 6 beswas). Presidential Office rejected the reduction with the correction sent to MoRR for acknowledgement. Further advocacy on price reduction still needed (IDP Policy as the base).
- Payment in **installments accepted**.

Herat: Sa'adat LAS Site (currently also hosting IDPs)



Herat: Sa'adat LAS

- Initial report: 1,435 IDP families hosted. Current number of **remaining** IDPs: between **200** (UNHCR, DRC) and 600 families (interviewed IDPs)
- Majority of IDPs self-initiatively **moved** to Herat city, Pashdan, Maslakh and Shaidayee. The reason for leaving:
 - no livelihood (far away from the city)
 - refugee returnees were preventing IDPs from using potable water (confirmed by DRC)
 - requested to leave by alleged land owners
 - security concerns (elections: if IDPs would vote, Taliban would kill them).
- No **relocation alternative** offered.

Herat: **Pashdan** Informal IDP Settlement

- **151+** IDP families from Badghis and Ghor, temporarily relocated (from Herat city) to Pashtan, living in tents across 10 *jiribs* of land for the last 6 months.
- **600** more IDP families came from Sa'adat to (close to) Pashtan.
- Pashtan land ownership is **disputed** – private persons vs government. IDPs not disturbed until the issue is resolved.
- Gov't tried to **relocate** IDPs back to Sa'adat, but they refused. Threat of eviction remains in case the land is proven private.
- No **livelihood** opportunities – IDPs are fully assistance-dependant.
- No **relocation alternative**.

Kabul: Kabul Informal Settlement

- **Nassaji Bagrami** (P.D.8, 270 IDP and r-r families from Helmand, Uruzgan, Kandahar): Apart from Nassaji textile company and a private person, a month ago another person raised the ownership claim. Residents assert they will not move (at any cost) until gov't provides an alternative land (high possibility of violence in case of attempted eviction).
- **Bagh-e-Dawood** (Paghman district, 60 IDP families). Land belongs to a powerful businessman. A week ago, evicted to nearby location and under threat of eviction again (notices served).

Kabul: **Kabul Informal Settlement**

- **Charahi Qambar** (P.D.5, 900 IDP and r-r families from Helmand, Uruzgan, Kandahar). Two weeks ago, MoD sent eviction notices (intending to build ANA housing). Residents still claim they wouldn't move before an alternative is provided.
- **Kabul Nandary** (133 families from Herat, Nangarhar, Kabul, Kapisa and Ghazni). Municipality is constructing apartments (Turkish company). People are requested to leave (last oral eviction notice 2 weeks ago), but the residents resist the attempted eviction. No further action undertaken.