

**Project title: Empowering
Returnees and IDPs through Legal Support
Danner Afghanistan for Women Empowerment Organisation
(DAWEO)**



Need Assessment Report in Bamiyan

June – July 2024

Funded by
the International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

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| IDLO | International Development Law Organization |
| DAWEO | Danner Afghanistan for Women Empowerment Organisation |
| IDPs | Internal Displaced People |
| IOM | International organisation for Migration |

I. SUB-PROJECT SUMMARY

| | | |
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| 1 | Name of Implementing Partner: | Danner Afghanistan for Women Empowerment organisation |
| 2 | Sub-Project Title: | Empowering Returnees and IDPs through Legal Support |
| 3 | Sub-Project Location: | Bamiyan |
| 4 | Submitted to: | IDLO |
| 5 | Date of Submission: | 5 th July 2024 |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Introduction:** Bamiyan province has been affected by conflict, natural disasters, and poverty, leading to high numbers of IDPs and returnees in the region. These individuals face challenges such as a lack of access to basic services, limited livelihood opportunities, and inadequate shelter. Despite these challenges, there have been efforts by humanitarian organizations to assist IDPs and returnees in Bamiyan. These efforts include providing food assistance, healthcare services, and support for education and livelihoods.
- **Key Findings:** Many of the individuals who have returned to Bamiyan or who have been internally displaced are in urgent need of assistance, particularly in areas such as housing, food, and support for generating income. Access to essential services like healthcare, education, and clean water is lacking for numerous returnees and IDPs in Bamiyan. The mental health and psychosocial well-being of these individuals is a significant concern, as many are grappling with trauma and emotional distress. However, there is still a need for more support and resources to address the needs of IDPs and returnees in Bamiyan. This includes improving access to education, healthcare, and shelter; providing legal support; Legal Advice: Providing information and guidance on legal rights, responsibilities, and options in a specific situation that returnees and IDPs share with legal advisers, Conflict Resolution: Assisting IDPs and returnees in resolving disputes through negotiation, mediation, or other alternative dispute resolution methods that are acceptable based on the community culture and social norms. Compliance Assistance: Helping beneficiaries understand and comply with laws and regulations relevant to their situation. Awareness sessions: providing awareness or seminars on legal topics to educate returnees and IDPs and empower them to make informed decisions. Creating economic opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. In conclusion, the situation of IDPs and returnees in Bamiyan requires continued attention and support from stakeholders to ensure that these vulnerable populations can rebuild their lives and livelihoods in a sustainable and dignified manner.
- **Recommendations:** Provide immediate assistance in the form of housing, food, and support for income generation to individuals in Bamiyan who have returned or been internally displaced. This will help meet their basic needs and improve their overall wellbeing. Focus on improving access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and clean water for returnees and IDPs in Bamiyan. This will help ensure their overall health and wellbeing are taken care of. Implement programs and services that address the mental health and psychosocial needs of individuals in Bamiyan who have experienced trauma and emotional distress. Providing appropriate support and resources will help them cope and recover. Create initiatives that help facilitate the reintegration of returnees and IDPs into their communities, including addressing issues of discrimination, resource limitations, and social stigma. This will help them feel supported and accepted within their communities. Encourage enhanced coordination and cooperation among various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations, to effectively address the needs of returnees and IDPs in Bamiyan. Collaborative efforts will ensure a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to supporting these individuals.

1. INTRODUCTION

- **Background of the NGO**

DAWEO, an international NGO in Afghanistan, has 10 years of experience working with gender-based violence (GBV) and has provided services to women NGOs and government institutions in various locations. DAWEO's expertise includes capacity building workshops, advocacy, and enhancing women's rights through activities like networking events, campaigns, community dialogues, and running women's shelters and family guidance centers. The organization also facilitates reintegration and mediation for survivors. DAWEO's core statements include changing societal mentality and awareness on women's rights, eliminating violence against women, and promoting a multifaceted approach. DAWEO's 5-year strategy aims to provide a strong professional response mechanism at Women's Peace and Security Centers (WPCs), establish strong linkages among CSOs and state departments, and advocate women's involvement in peace and security processes. DAWEO has recently been registered as an NGO in Virginia, USA, to add security and financial management to its activities. Despite being founded by women, DAWEO has faced challenges in its board of directors due to political crises and MoEC regulations. DAWEO performed the UN-Women project in the provinces of Bamiyan and Paktia in the areas of health, PSS, and economic empowerment for women and girls.

- **Purpose of the Needs Assessment**

The purpose of conducting a needs assessment for the selection of returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Bamiyan is to identify the specific needs and vulnerabilities of these populations in order to better provide targeted support and assistance. This assessment helps to determine the priority areas for intervention, including identifying pressing issues for returnees, IDPs, and host communities; and proposing relevant topics for dialogues.

By understanding the unique challenges and requirements of returnees and IDPs in Bamiyan, DFA, national and international organizations can tailor their program and resources to address these needs effectively and efficiently. Additionally, the needs assessment can help establish a baseline for monitoring and evaluating the impact of assistance programs over time.

- **Scope and Objectives**

In person interviews will be conducted with 40 to 60 individuals in the target communities. This group of individuals will include IDP's, returnees, and host communities. The group will comprise 60% male and 40% female participants. A convenient snowball sampling method will be used to identify the participants of the assessment.

Every organization will work in their respective target province and will target communities with more concentration of returnees and IDP's. organizations are strategically selecting where to work based on the presence of vulnerable populations—those who have returned after being displaced and those who are still internally displaced. By doing so, they aim to address the specific needs of these communities and contribute to recovery and stability in the affected regions.

Need assessment objectives: To identify pressing issues of returnees, IDP's, and host communities, and to propose relevant topics for dialogues.

2. METHODOLOGY

- **Data Collection Methods**

- **Surveys:** The survey was performed based on the assessment questionnaire form that was designed in four sections: Demographics for All Respondents, Questions for All Respondents, Questions for IDPs and Returnees Only, and Questions for All Respondents. All questions for identifying qualified people based on the program requirements are incorporated into the Need Assessment form. The survey was conducted door-to-door in the villages of Rigshad, Sarkhgo, Sar Asiab, Dasht Essa Khan, and Zargaran. The baseline surveys of returnees and IDPs were conducted on June 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, and 24. There were a total of 105 people: 24 women and 68 men from Iran, 2 males and 1 female from Pakistan, and 10 IDPs, 5 males and 5 females. 33 women and 72 men were surveyed.

And also, the IOM shared the list of returnees who returned from Iran and Pakistan between 2023 to April 2024. We addressed these people because most of them were documented by IOM and they had the IOM beneficiary card.

- **Secondary Data Review:** considered beneficial to review and categories secondary data based on various criteria such as geographical areas, gender, age, IDPs, and returnees. This helps in organizing the data and gaining insights into different population groups. Recording the data in a database system also facilitates easy access and analysis of the information.

- **Sample Size and Selection**

The 105 women and men are selected for interviews among the returnees and IDPs in central Bamiyan.

3. NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- **Key findings of the Assessment**

In this assessment, the findings were collected through the questionnaire tool, then entered into Excel, and in this section, we described and analyzed the data.

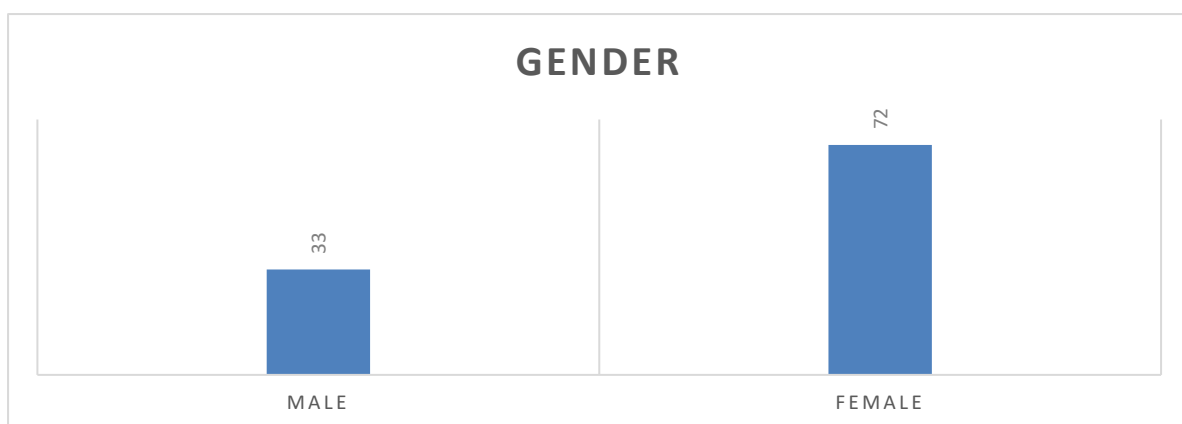


Figure 1: The total of 105 male and female, IDPs and returnees surveyed.

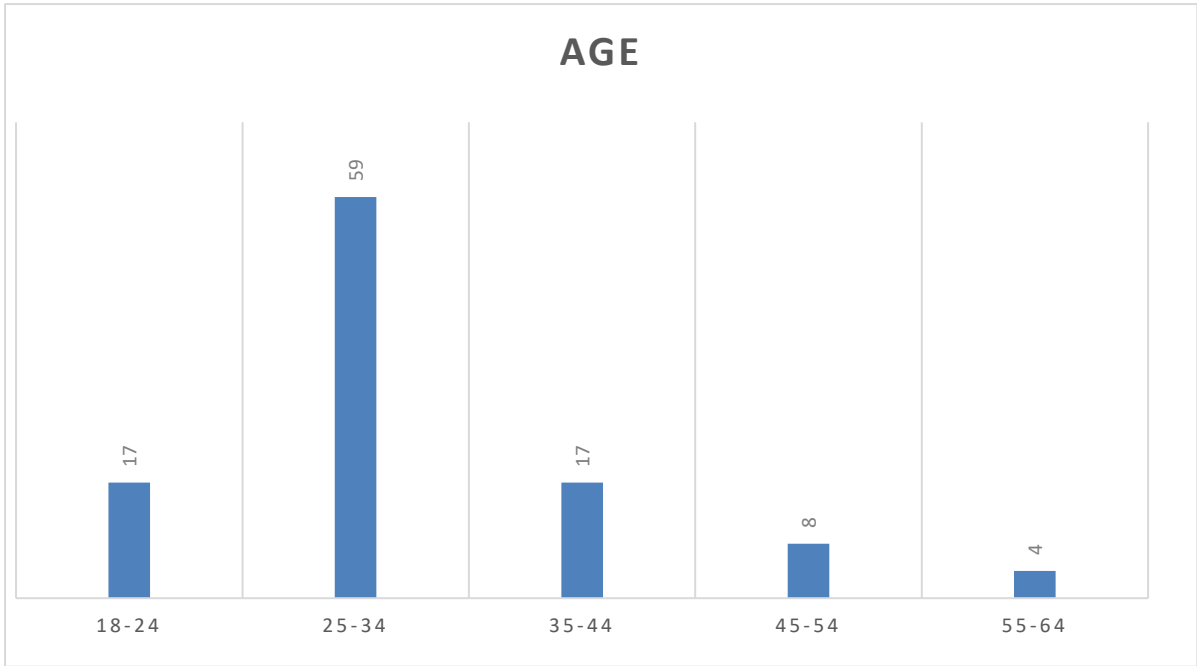


Figure 2: The age of people who participated in the need assessment interviews.

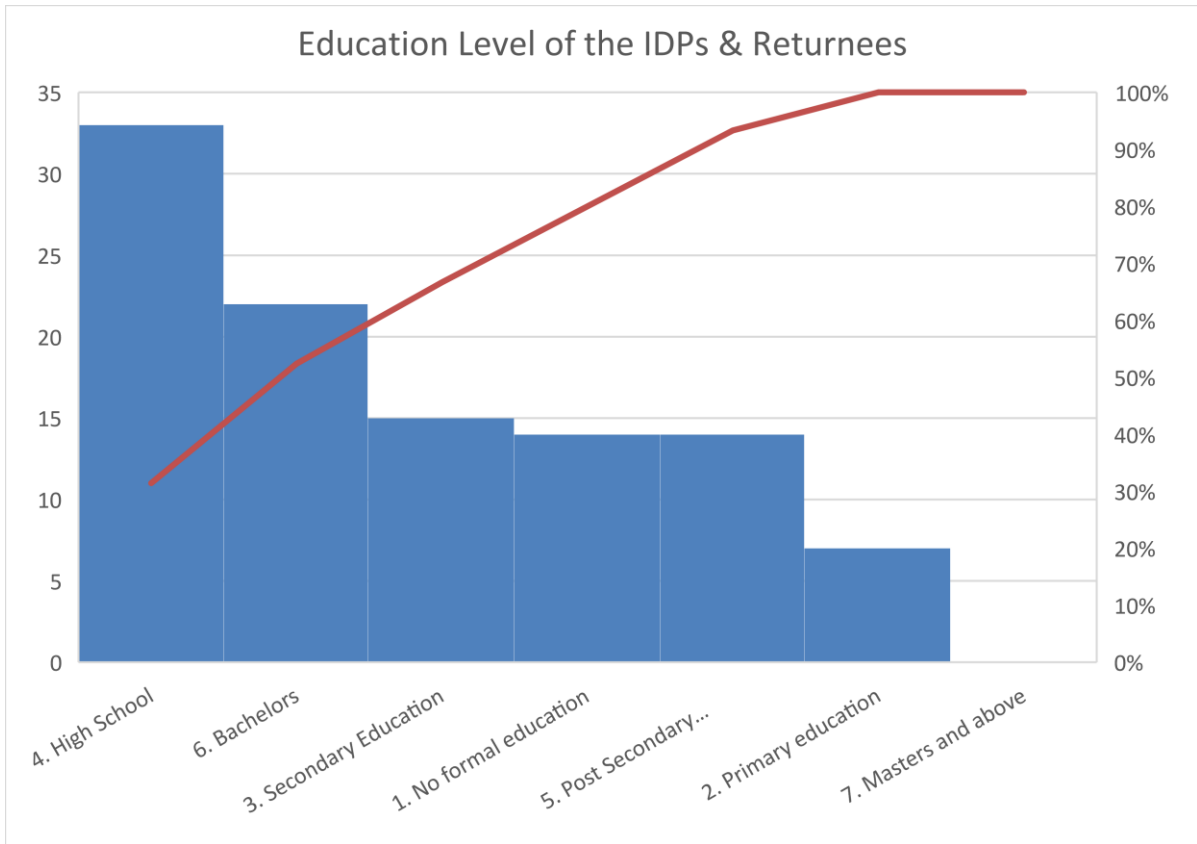


Figure 3: Description of the education level of the IDPs and returnees.

The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees from Iran and Pakistan has seen fluctuations in recent years, with ongoing conflicts and political instability in both countries contributing to the displacement and repatriation of individuals seeking safety and stability. Below is the list of refugees from Iran, Pakistan, and also IDPs based on the 105 interviewed people:

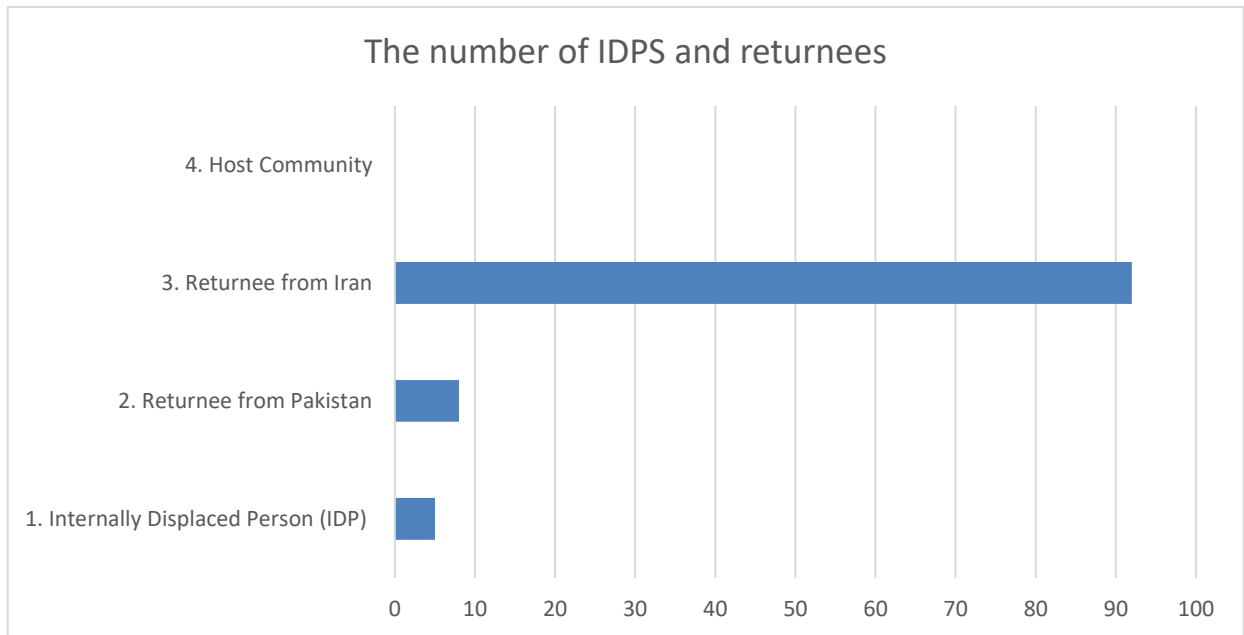


Figure 4: Displacement of the Number IDPs and Returnees

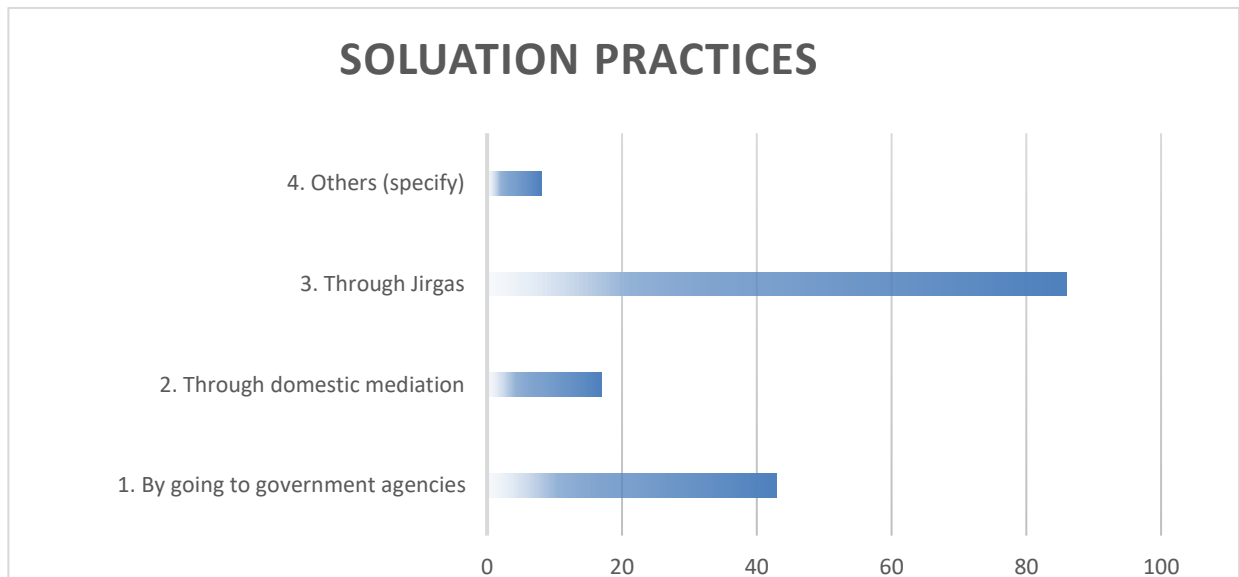


Figure 5: The practicing ways of solving the problems based on the community social norms in the Bamiyan community

The majority of returnees and IDPs in Bamiyan are in need of assistance, particularly in terms of shelter, food, healthcare, education, coordination and collaboration among stakeholders, government, lack of access to documentation and identification, legal services, and livelihood support. The IDPs and returnees asked about legal support as Legal Advice: Providing information and guidance on legal rights, responsibilities, and options in a specific situation that returnees and IDPs share with legal advisers, Conflict Resolution: Assisting IDPs and returnees in resolving disputes through negotiation, mediation, or other alternative dispute resolution methods that are acceptable based on the community culture and social norms. Compliance Assistance: Helping beneficiaries understand and comply with laws and regulations relevant to their situation. Awareness sessions: providing awareness or seminars on legal topics to educate returnees and IDPs and empower them to make informed decisions.

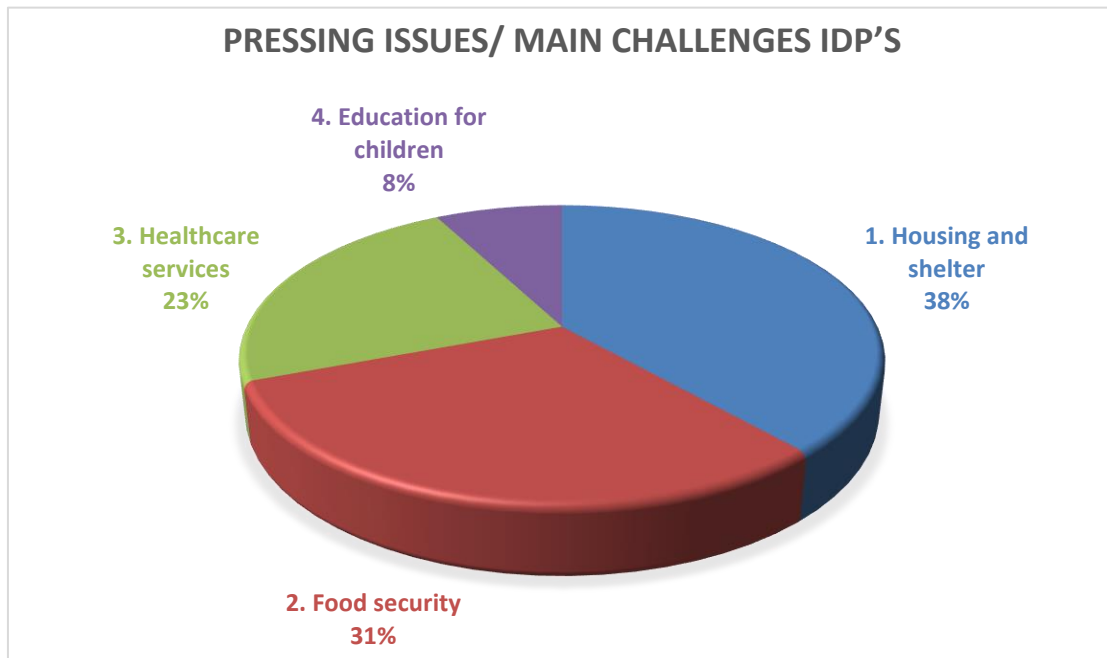


Figure 6: Pressing Issues/ Main Challenges of the IDPs.

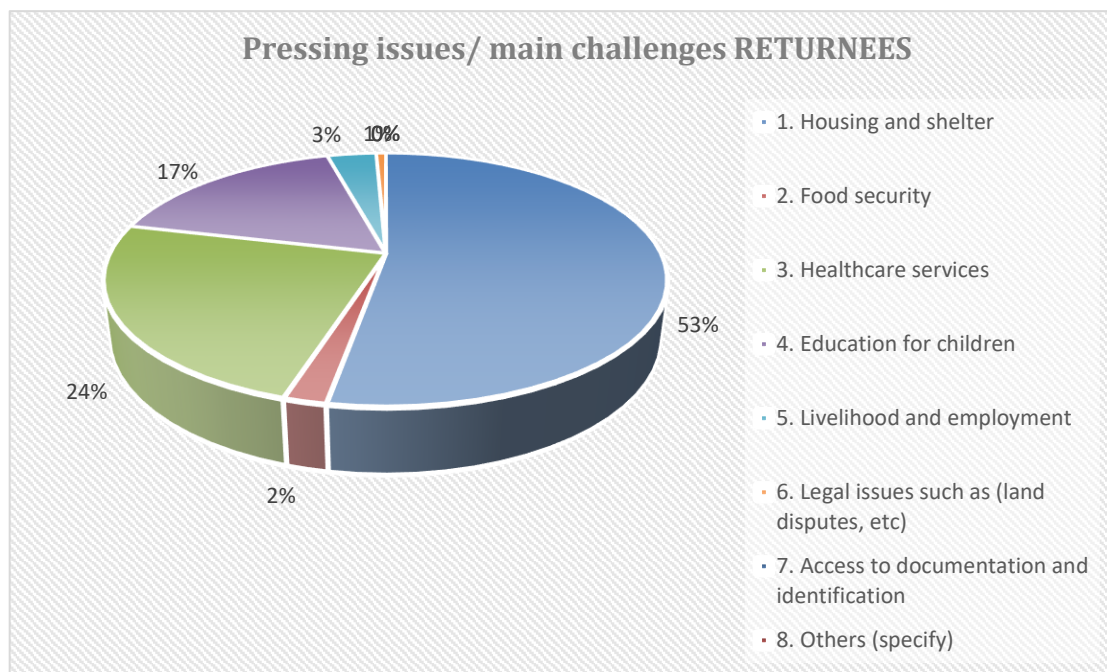


Figure 7: Pressing Issues/ Main Challenges of the Returnees.

The main barriers to community issues in the area of access to civil documentation are as follows:

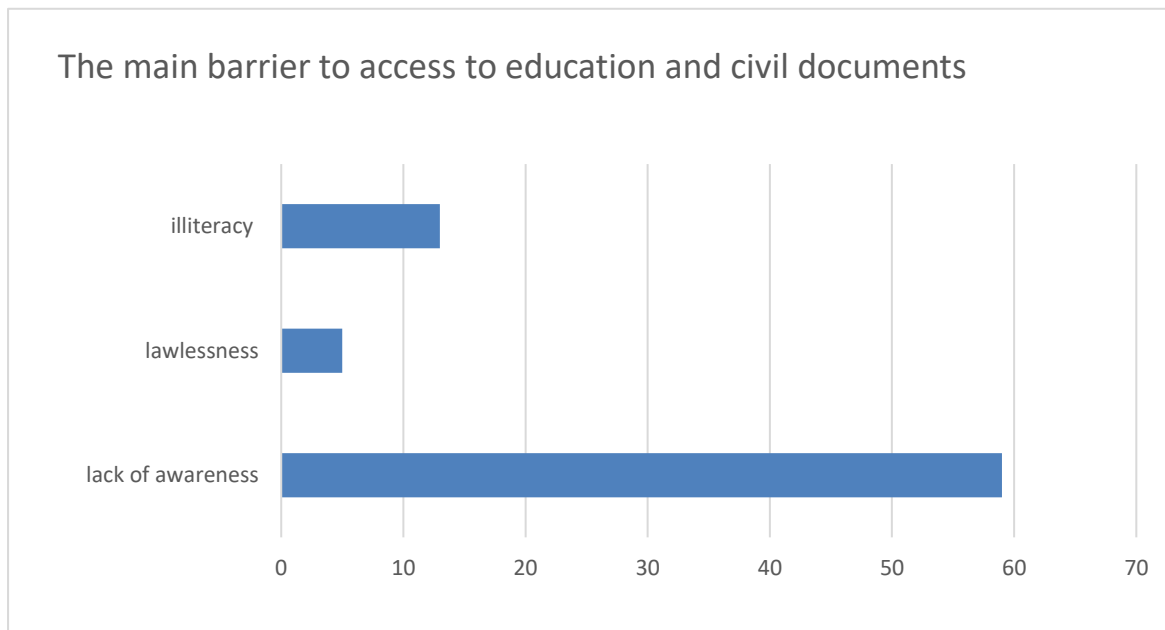


Figure 8: The Main Barriers to Access to Education & Civil Documents

- **Identification of Needs**
 - **Priority Areas:** The majority of returnees and IDPs in Bamiyan are in need of assistance, particularly in terms of shelter. 53% of interviewed people need a house and shelter; 2% need food; 23% need health care; 17% don't have access to education; 3% need livelihood support; and 1% need legal support. There is a need for increased coordination and collaboration among stakeholders to effectively address the needs of returnees and IDPs in Bamiyan. Many returnees and IDPs lack access to basic services such as healthcare and education.
 - **Unmet Needs:** There is a high level of vulnerability among returnees and IDPs, particularly women, children, and elderly individuals. Returnees and IDPs in Bamiyan face challenges in reintegrating into their communities, including discrimination and lack of resources.
- **Gaps in Services:** Insufficient protection measures for vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and the elderly. Challenges in accessing legal assistance and documentation for IDPs and returnees. Inadequate coordination and collaboration among humanitarian agencies and local authorities to address the needs of IDPs and returnees effectively. Limited access to basic services such as healthcare, education house and shelter.
- **Challenges and Barriers:** Economic challenges: IDPs and returnees often struggle to find sustainable sources of income, leading to poverty and food insecurity. Lack of adequate housing: Many IDPs and returnees do not have access to safe and adequate housing, leading to overcrowding and increased vulnerability to health risks. Limited support and assistance: IDPs and returnees may not receive adequate support from government agencies or humanitarian organizations, leaving them vulnerable and without access to resources.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Collaboration of local authorities, NGOs, and other stakeholders with IDPs and returnees.
- Provide access to education and vocational training opportunities such as tailoring, animal husbandry, food processing, and agriculture.
- Establish mechanisms for feedback and complaints to continuously improve service delivery and address any concerns or gaps in assistance.
- Develop and implement targeted programs and services to address the mentioned needs (food security, housing and shelter, health and PSS)

5. CONCLUSION

- **Summary of Key Findings:** Bamiyan province in Afghanistan is home to a significant number of returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are facing numerous challenges in rebuilding their lives and integrating back into their communities. One of the primary challenges faced by returnees and IDPs in Bamiyan is the lack of basic needs, including, adequate housing, healthcare, and education. Many returnees and IDPs struggle to find employment opportunities and secure a stable source of income, further exacerbating their vulnerability. In addition to the lack of basic needs, returnees and IDPs in Bamiyan also face mental health issues stemming from their experiences of displacement, conflict, and loss. The trauma of being uprooted from their homes, witnessing violence, and enduring hardships can leave lasting psychological scars on individuals, leading to depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. However, mental health services and support are limited in Bamiyan, making it difficult for returnees and IDPs to access the care and treatment they need to heal and recover. Certain populations among returnees and IDPs in Bamiyan are particularly vulnerable and at risk of exploitation, abuse, and discrimination. This includes women, children, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities, who may face additional challenges in terms of safety, security, and access to resources. Women and girls, in particular, are at risk of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and forced marriage, without proper protections and support systems in place. Addressing the challenges faced by returnees and IDPs in Bamiyan requires a comprehensive approach that includes providing access to basic needs, improving mental health services and support, and ensuring the protection and empowerment of vulnerable populations. This may involve strengthening social services, expanding livelihood and employment opportunities, promoting community-based psychosocial support programs, and advocating for the rights and well-being of returnees and IDPs. By addressing these issues, we can help ensure that returnees and IDPs in Bamiyan are able to rebuild their lives, recover from their trauma, and reintegrate successfully into their communities.
- **Final Recommendations:** Communities impacted by displacement, whether due to conflict, natural disasters, or other crises, face a crucial challenge. Addressing the needs of returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) requires an integrated approach that fosters collaboration among various stakeholders. These stakeholders typically include governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community leaders, international agencies, and private sector actors.
 - **Improved Coordination:** Effective coordination among stakeholders is essential to ensuring that efforts are not duplicated and that resources are allocated efficiently. This can involve regular communication, joint planning sessions, and the establishment of clear responsibilities to create a more cohesive response to the needs of returnees and IDPs.

- Coordination can help identify gaps in services and opportunities for collaboration, which can lead to more effective interventions.
- **Addressing Livelihood Opportunities:** One of the most pressing issues for returnees and IDPs is the lack of livelihood opportunities. Coordinated efforts should focus on creating sustainable income-generating activities that match the skills of these populations. This might include vocational training programs, access to microfinance, or support for small businesses. Encouraging partnerships with local businesses can also stimulate job creation and enhance economic resilience in the affected communities.
 - **Infrastructure Development:** Adequate infrastructure is a critical component in facilitating the reintegration of returnees and IDPs. This includes not only housing but also access to clean water, sanitation, healthcare, education, and transportation. Stakeholders must collaborate to assess existing infrastructure needs and develop comprehensive plans for improvement. This may involve both immediate, short-term interventions and long-term development strategies to ensure that infrastructure is sustainable and meets the needs of the population.
 - **Community Engagement and Inclusion:** Involving local communities in the planning and implementation of programs is vital. Local voices can provide valuable insights into the specific challenges faced by returnees and IDPs and engaging the community fosters ownership and accountability. This participatory approach can lead to more effective and culturally sensitive solutions.
 - **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establishing mechanisms for ongoing monitoring and evaluation can help stakeholders assess the effectiveness of their initiatives. By collecting data and feedback from IDPs and returnees, stakeholders can adapt their strategies as needed, ensuring that the support provided is relevant and impactful. In summary, improving coordination among stakeholders is fundamental to addressing the complex needs of returnees and IDPs. It involves collaborative planning to enhance livelihood opportunities and infrastructure, engaging local communities in the process, and ensuring that efforts are monitored for effectiveness. By taking a holistic and inclusive approach, stakeholders can more effectively support displaced populations in their journey towards recovery and stability.

LIST OF ANNEXES

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| Annex 1 | Survey/Interview Questions |
| Annex 2 | Additional Data Tables/Charts |
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