

Empowering Refugees and Returnees through Legal Support

**Danner Afghanistan For Women Empowerment Organisation (DAWEO)**

**SUB-PROJECT FINAL REPORT**

**June – August 2024**

Funded by  
the International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

30 September 2024

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>DAWEO</b>	Danner Afghanistan for Women Empowerment Organisation
<b>DFA</b>	De-facto Authorities
<b>DOEC</b>	Directorate of Economy
<b>DoLSA</b>	Directorate of Labor and Social Affairs
<b>DoPH</b>	Directorate of Public Health
<b>DoRI</b>	Directorate of Returnees and Immigrants
<b>IDLO</b>	International Development Law Organization
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Persons
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

## I. SUB-PROJECT SUMMARY

1	<b>Name of the Implementing Partner(s):</b>	DAWEO
2	<b>Sub-Project Title:</b>	<b>Empowering Refugees and Returnees through Legal Support</b>
3	<b>Sub-Project Location:</b>	Bamiyan
4	<b>Sub-Project Duration:</b>	Three months
5	<b>Sub-Project Total Budget:</b>	10,000 USD
6	<b>Sub-Project Manager:</b>	Amina Hashimi
7	<b>Sub-Project Reporting Period:</b>	June to August 2024
8	<b>Submitted to:</b>	IDLO
9	<b>Date of Submission:</b>	30 September 2024

### Background

The increasing number of refugees, returnees, and IDPs in Bamiyan are facing significant challenges in accessing basic services, livelihood opportunities, and protection due to limited resources and infrastructure. This situation not only hampers their integration but also poses risks to their well-being and exacerbates social tensions in host communities. Addressing these issues is crucial to ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable populations and promoting sustainable development in Bamiyan. The majority of IDPs and returnees encounter numerous challenges because of their ignorance of their fundamental rights. One of their biggest issues, for instance, is returning their educational records to Afghanistan from the nation they left behind. Similarly, married individuals who marry citizens of other nations may encounter severe legal ramifications. And also, the refugees faced a lack of knowledge about the law and regulations, they did not have information about the rules and procedures of how to get civil documents, including educational, marriage, and property records.

In Bamiyan province, as in other provinces of Afghanistan, there are a significant number of returnees from Iran and Pakistan who need legal, humanitarian, shelter, and educational assistance. However, unfortunately, the ruling government has not allocated sufficient resources to address their needs, resulting in considerable challenges for them. Key stakeholders, including the Directorate of Returnees and Immigrants (DoRI), Directorate of Labor and Social Affairs (DoLSA), Directorate of Economics (DoEC), Directorate of Public Health (DoPH), community elders, local councils, Wakil Gozar, UNHCR, and representatives from the broader society, can play a crucial role in addressing the challenges faced by IDPs and returnees. These stakeholders, working in coordination and cooperation, can provide essential support in various ways, such as: legal assistance, social services, economic opportunities, community-based solutions, and international aid. By working together and leveraging their respective expertise, these stakeholders can significantly improve the lives of IDPs and returnees and contribute to a more inclusive and resilient society. The sub-project aims to improve the legal situation of Afghan refugees and returnees by addressing the challenges they face in accessing basic services, legal knowledge and protection. By providing targeted interventions and support, the sub-project seeks to enhance the integration of refugees and returnees into their communities, promote their self-reliance, and ensure their well-being. Overall Impact/Outcome:

The sub-project's overarching goal is to enhance the social and legal inclusion of Afghan returnees, leading to improved living conditions and reduced legal vulnerabilities. By

addressing the identified problems and needs, the sub-project aims to create a more conducive environment for refugees and returnees to rebuild their lives and contribute positively to their communities.

**Sub-Project Outputs and Activities:**

1. Conduct needs assessments: Carry out comprehensive assessments to identify the specific needs and challenges faced by Afghan refugees and returnees in different districts of Bamiyan.
2. Conducting dialogues with interested parties about the settlement of returnees' legal issues.
3. Offering knowledge and answers through three-days' workshop aimed at engaging individuals in the active workshop sessions and addressing their legal issues during the sessions.

**Sub-Project Goal (impact level)**

Promoting legal awareness and education among the Refugees and returnees in Bamiyan

**Sub-Project Outcome(s) (specific impact level)**

1. increased awareness and understanding of legal rights and responsibilities among the refugees;
2. Strengthened the legal knowledge of refugees.
3. Enhanced coordination and collaboration among stakeholders.

**Sub-Project Output(s)**

- 1.1. improved compliance with laws.
- 1.2 increase rule of law: by building the capacity of legal IDPs and returnees, there can be a promotion of the rule of law.
  - 2.1 it can result in the legal development, enhancing their skills, knowledge
  - 2.2 by fostering collaboration and coordination among stakeholders, there can be better alignment of efforts, resources and expertise towards common goals

**Sub-Project Beneficiaries**

The selected and finalized beneficiaries of the sub-project in Bamiyan province are the returnees and IDPs, including women and children, who face significant civil legal challenges and barriers in accessing to justice or finding a way to solve their problems. This group often lacks awareness of their legal rights, faces discrimination within the legal system or sharia law. Due to the entrance of the DFA into the legal system, they try to interpret the law and sharia in their favor, and struggles to afford legal representation.

The sub-project will be implemented for various people in Bamiyan Province, focusing on areas with high levels of returnees. The baseline surveys for 105 returnees and IDPs were conducted in June 2024 in order to select beneficiaries from the villages of Rigshad, Sarkhgo, Sar Asiab, Dasht Essa Khan, and Zargaran.

30 women and 75 men that were composed of IDPs and returnees, were initially surveyed., However, among the IDPs and returnees 15 women and 45 men met the criteria of our program and were selected to be participants of the workshops. The sanction check for 60 participants was completed by the end of June 2024.

DAWEO is pleased to submit the final report in compliance with the Sub-Project Agreement for the “Empowering Refugees and Returnees through Legal Support” (The “sub-project”) signed by DAWEO and IDLO.

## II. SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

### 1. MAJOR RESULTS

#### **Promoting Legal Awareness and Education Among the IDPs and Returnees in Bamiyan**

Based on the four rounds of the dialogue and advocacy workshops that were conducted in months of July, August and September; 45 male and 15 female participants attended in all four workshops. It was observed that most of the participants didn't had awareness about their rights, the opportunities in the province, and how to resolve issues caused by the community and DFA. Dialogue and advocacy workshop was a great initiative for spreading awareness of the IDPs and returnees' rights along with equipping them with the skills and knowledge to solve social issues and do advocacy for their basic rights. Based on the goals designed for the sub-project, promoting the legal awareness among the returnees and IDPs was supported by the group of participants and entailed positive feedback.

dialogue and advocacy workshops aimed at increasing awareness among internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees regarding their rights and available opportunities. Here are some specific rights and opportunities that the participants might have been made aware of during these workshops:

#### **Rights Brought to Public Awareness:**

1. **Right to Education:** Awareness was raised about the right to education for displaced individuals and children, including access to free education and educational resources available in their provinces.
2. **Right to Health Care:** Information was provided about their right to access healthcare services and support, including the provision of medical assistance and rehabilitation services.
3. **Right to Work:** Participants were educated on their rights to work and engage in economic activities, including legal frameworks that protect against discrimination in employment.

#### **Opportunities Brought to Public Awareness:**

1. **Humanitarian Assistance Programs:** Information about various humanitarian aid programs aimed at helping IDPs and returnees rebuild their lives, including financial assistance and housing support.
2. **Legal Aid Services:** Awareness of available legal aid and support services that can assist individuals in resolving disputes and protecting their rights.
3. **Community Development Projects:** Opportunities to engage in local community development projects aimed at improving living conditions and fostering social cohesion.
4. **Capacity Building Workshops:** Information on ongoing training programs and workshops that can help participants develop skills necessary for income-generation activities, including vocational training and entrepreneurship in other projects with different organizations.
5. **Access to Social Services:** Awareness of social services and resources available to assist with reintegration into society, such as counselling, job placement programs, and access to vocational training.

By spreading awareness about these rights and opportunities, the workshops empowered IDPs and returnees to advocate for themselves and seek the resources they need for a better quality of life.

## 2. MAJOR ACTIVITIES

The 105 baseline surveys of returnees and IDPs were conducted in 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, and 24 June 2024. In order to select beneficiaries from the Rigshad, Sarkhgol, Sar Asiab, Dasht Essa Khan, and Zargaran villages. A total of 105 individuals were counted in the survey, comprised of 24 women and 68 men from Iran, alongside 2 men and 1 woman from Pakistan. Additionally, there were 10 internally displaced persons (IDPs), consisting of 5 males and 5 females. Out of this larger group, 30 women and 75 men participated in the survey.

Among the surveyed people 15 women and 45 men met the criteria of our sub-project, and the sanction check for the selected 60-participants was carried out and completed by 30 June 2024.

DAWEO performed data processing, based on the survey form and all the necessary documents were verified such as: the identities of those who were surveyed by our team, including copies of their National Identity Cards (NID), IOM cards for those who returned from Iran and Pakistan, and both hard and soft copies of the assessment forms. Additionally, the results of the sanction checks were saved and shared with IDLO for the final verification.

The need assessment of the 105 IDPs and returnees in Bamiyan revealed several key areas of concern that was addressed in the Dialogue and Advocacy Workshops. Some of the main needs identified include: Access to healthcare, access to education and vocational trainings, lack of economic opportunities, lack of employment opportunities, and access to civil documents.

DAWEO worked on developing dialogue and advocacy workshop materials. We reached out to the capacity-building department of IDLO for support in acquiring training resources. Fortunately, they generously shared some of the workshop related materials with our team, and we have started creating the workshop presentation, which was completed on 16 July 2024.

DAWEO successfully launched a comprehensive dialogue and advocacy workshop series from July to September 2024, comprising four distinct rounds designed to engage and empower internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees. The first round of the workshop took place on 21 July to 25 July 2024, followed by the second round from 3 August to 7 August. The third round was delivered from 17 August to 22 August 2024, and the final round took place on 1 September and ended on 5 September. Throughout these workshops, we were pleased to report that a total of 15 males participated in each of the first three sessions. In the final session, we made concerted efforts to ensure gender representation by inviting 15 female IDPs and returnees to join the workshop. In total, 60 IDPs and returnees benefited from this initiative, gaining valuable skills and knowledge that will assist them in their reintegration and advocacy efforts. We meticulously documented the workshop activities and outcomes, sharing comprehensive summaries and reports in our previous biweekly updates and our quarterly progress report.

Additionally, a detailed needs assessment report—including a list of participating IDPs and returnees—was compiled and shared with IDLO to ensure transparency and facilitate collaborative efforts. As a part of our commitment to comply with best practices in participant oversight, we conducted a sanctions checklist review across three specific websites for all 60 participants. Following this thorough vetting process, the compiled list was submitted to IDLO for approval, which we are pleased to report was granted without delay. This enabled DAWEO to advance with the workshop sessions as planned. During the execution of the workshops,

we ensured systematic communication with IDLO by sharing various reports, including biweekly updates, an event tracker report, a quarterly progress report, and the previously mentioned needs assessment report. To further enhance collaboration, we also organized a Zoom call, allowing IDLO to monitor the dialogue and advocacy workshops in real-time, thereby providing an opportunity for them to offer insights and feedback. We are delighted to highlight that all planned activities were executed smoothly and efficiently, with no significant challenges encountered. The unwavering support from the IDLO teams throughout the implementation of this sub-project proved invaluable, providing us with the guidance and resources necessary to expedite our activities effectively.

In conclusion, the successful execution of this workshop series marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights and needs of IDPs and returnees. We remain committed to fostering an inclusive environment that empowers these communities, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with IDLO in future initiatives. This initial segment aimed to create a safe space for participants to share their experiences, perspectives, and challenges related to their situation as IDPs and returnees. Facilitators encouraged open communication, allowing participants to express their concerns and aspirations, which laid the groundwork for the advocacy activities that would follow. During the 5 days of the action-oriented dialogue and advocacy workshop, returnees and IDPs practically worked on the proposal; they learnt how to ask and propose about their needs, problems, and demands in the format of a proposal. The proposal should be submitted to whom, where, when, and what will be the result. The template of the proposal was shared with our team by IDLO along with the action plan which were the important parts of the workshop. The participants were divided into different groups and worked on the action plan based on the workshop proposal they prepared. The facilitator taught them how to list their activities, how to set their goals, how to determine the responsible person, and how much time they needed to achieve their goals.

### **3. NOTEWORTHY CHALLENGES**

1. Some of the participants were uneducated. Effective communication is crucial for collaboration and teamwork. Participants who lack literacy skills may struggle to read and comprehend sub-project materials or communicate their thoughts clearly, which can lead to misunderstandings and decreased collaboration.
2. There was a lack of information regarding their rights.
3. There was insufficient coordination between the DFA and the IDPs and returnees in addressing their challenges.
4. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees in Bamiyan face a myriad of challenges that deeply affect their livelihoods and reintegration into society. Many of them struggle with inadequate access to necessities such as clean water, healthcare, and education, which perpetuates cycles of poverty and marginalization. Furthermore, due to their uneducated background, many participants among the IDP and returnee populations are ill-equipped to navigate the complexities of claiming their rights and accessing available services. This lack of awareness is compounded by insufficient access to information, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and further disenfranchisement. Moreover, the social stigma attached to displacement can hinder their ability to find stable employment or reintegrate into their communities, exacerbating their precarious situations.

To address these pressing challenges, various initiatives are being undertaken by governmental and non-governmental organizations in collaboration with local communities. Programs aimed at increasing awareness about rights and available services are being implemented, featuring workshops that educate IDPs and returnees on how to navigate legal

frameworks and assert their rights. Coordinated efforts between the DFA and local authorities are being strengthened, focusing on the delivery of critical services tailored to the unique needs of these vulnerable populations. For instance, targeted health services and vocational training programs are being introduced to equip IDPs and returnees with essential skills that can help them secure employment and reintegrate successfully into their communities. With ongoing collaboration and commitment, there is hope for substantial improvement in the living conditions and integration processes for IDPs and returnees.

### III. RESULTS AGAINST SUB-PROJECT OUTCOMES

During this reporting period from June to September 2024 in Bamiyan; dialogue and advocacy activities focused on enhancing community engagement, promoting social cohesion, and addressing key issues affecting local populations. Various stakeholders, including DFA representatives, NGOs, and community leaders, participated in organized forums and workshops aimed at fostering discussion around development needs and priorities.

Progress on key activities in the sub-project included:

1. Need assessment survey
2. Need assessment report
3. Preparation of the workshop materials
4. Organizing and conducting dialogue and advocacy workshops.
5. Providing the biweekly report
6. Submitting the event tracker report for each dialogue and advocacy workshops
7. Receiving feedback and comments from IDLO teams on the action plan, proposal, and reports of the workshop
8. Attaching the photos from the need assessment, workshop, and meetings

**OUTCOME 1:** increased awareness and understanding of legal rights and responsibilities among the refugees

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#### Output 1.1. Improved compliance with laws

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DAWEO, based on the outcomes and outputs, performed the dialogue and advocacy workshop to achieve the goals of the program. The outcome of promoting legal awareness and education among the IDPs and returnees in Bamiyan was improved compliance with the laws. Most IDPs and returnees didn't have any information and awareness about the law, rules, and regulations of the DFA. During the workshop, they learnt the addresses of local institutions, DFAs (Directorate of Labor and Social Affairs, Directorate of Migrants and Returnees, Directorate of Health, Directorate of Economy), and community elders who can support and assist them in solving their problems. The dialogue and advocacy workshop, along with the practical topics discussed during the 5-day program, also raised awareness. The participants were aware of the general community's challenges and issues. In some cases, the problems that IDPs and returnees faced in Bamiyan were the same, but before attending the workshop, they had no idea that how many people have suffered from unemployment, lack of shelter, access to education, access to civil documents, and health issues. The workshop sessions brought solidarity among the participants.

**Output 1.2: increase rule of law: by building the capacity of legal IDPs and returnees, there can be a promotion of the rule of law**

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The other tool that can support the first outcome is the rule of law. Not only in Bamiyan province but everywhere, if the rule of law is followed, the situation will change positively. Because the rule of law is the means to achieve justice, in every community, when the rules are respected by the people, there will be well-being for all categories of residents, except their nationality, language, and religion. The dialogue and advocacy workshop focused on the rights of IDPs and returnees in Bamiyan, and it was emphasized that all of them can legally have civil documents. They can apply for support from various institutions to provide them with work. Access to health and education centers is one of the other human rights of people in society, which the ruling system is responsible for taking care of. During this program, the returnees were encouraged to request their requests in legal form through a proposal from the relevant institutions.

**OUTCOME 2:** Strengthened the legal knowledge of returnees and IDPs

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**Output 2.1.: Increase rule of law: by building the legal capacity of refugees and returnees, there can be a promotion of the rule of law**

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The objective of this outcome is to enhance the legal knowledge of returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), enabling them to effectively navigate their rights and obligations within the legal framework of their host country. This strengthening of legal knowledge is essential to promoting the rule of law, ensuring better access to justice, and fostering social cohesion.

To achieve the outcomes mentioned in the output, several targeted actions and activities were executed:

**Actions and activities**

**1. Workshops and dialogue sessions**

- **Four workshops** (in-person) were conducted for 60 participants (returnees and IDPs). 45 male and 15 female.
- **Quantitative Data:** 85% of participants reported an increase in understanding their rights after these sessions, with knowledge retention tested through pre- and post-workshop evaluations.
- **Qualitative Data:** "I never knew I was entitled to have rights to education, shelter, employment, and health from the government to support me or at least provide me with information after returning home. These sessions have changed my mind," said a returnee participant.

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**2. Creation of Educational Materials:**

- Developed workshop materials for dialogue and advocacy workshops

**3. Partnerships with Local Authorities:**

- Created an action plan and proposal by IDPs and returnees who participated in the workshop to establish relationships with local governmental bodies to create a more welcoming environment for returnees and IDPs.
- Collaborated on **community legal awareness campaigns**, promoting understanding between legal authorities and these groups.

Through these comprehensive actions, the IDPs and returnees have strengthened their legal knowledge, positively impacting their engagement with legal systems and fostering a culture

of rule of law. By equipping them with critical knowledge regarding the different needs of returnees and IDPs in Bamiyan

#### **IV. EXPLANATIONS AS TO SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES FROM TIMELINE, IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND BUDGET**

DAWEO has implemented the sub-project in Bamiyan Province, in alignment with the specified timeline, implementation plan, and budget, that involved several key practices with no significant variances experienced.

1. **Thorough Needs Assessment:** Begin with a comprehensive needs assessment to gain a deep understanding of the local context, challenges, and opportunities before initiating the sub-project.
2. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engage actively with local stakeholders, including community leaders, beneficiaries, and relevant government bodies. This approach fosters trust and enhances collaboration.
3. **Effective Communication and Regular Updates:** Maintain open lines of communication with all stakeholders by providing regular updates on sub-project progress and any modifications to the implementation plan.
4. **Local capacity development:** Invest in training and capacity-building initiatives for beneficiaries to equip them with the skills necessary to contribute to and sustain the sub-project's impact.
5. **Continuous Monitoring:** Implement real-time monitoring systems to track both sub-project progress and expenditures, enabling timely adjustments as needed.

By following these practices, the DAWEO sub-project successfully addresses the needs of the Bamiyan Province community while ensuring efficiency and effectiveness throughout the implementation process.

#### **V. PROGRESS ON GENDER STRATEGY/GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

##### **Overview of Gender Integration**

The sub-project, during the reporting period, has prioritized gender mainstreaming across various steps. Recognizing the intersections of gender with socio-economic factors, the sub-project addressed both structural and cultural barriers that hinder gender equality.

##### **Objectives and Alignment:**

- **Primary Objective:** Where gender is the primary objective, such as capacity building for returnee women, significant strides have been made. Activities have included tailored workshop sessions that empower women with skills in negotiation and advocacy.
- **Collateral Objective:** In components with a collateral focus on gender, such as community engagement activities, efforts have included involving both men and women in dialogues about gender roles, thereby fostering a more inclusive environment.

##### **Gender-Informed, Gender-Sensitive, and Gender-Responsive Approaches**

###### **Gender-Informed Measures**

The sub-project was designed to collect gender-disaggregated data from the outset. This approach helped identify specific needs and barriers faced by different gender groups. Inputs from gender studies were integrated into the sub-project design, ensuring relevance to the local context.

###### **Gender-Sensitive Actions**

The implementation sought to understand the implications of gender dynamics within target communities. For example:

- Adaptation of workshop materials to be inclusive of gender language, promoting a safe, welcoming environment for all participants.

### **Gender-Responsive Initiatives**

The sub-project actively adjusted its strategies based on continuous feedback from both male and female stakeholders. Key initiatives included:

- Flexible workshop scheduling to accommodate IDPs and returnees' responsibilities.
- Establishing a feedback mechanism where women could express concerns about participation barriers anonymously would lead to timely adjustments in sub-project implementation strategies. Based on the current context of Afghanistan and this concern, the male and female moderators hired to conduct the workshop for both male and female participants.

## **VI. LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES**

When conducting a dialogue and advocacy workshop for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees in Bamiyan, several lessons learned, and best practices can be gleaned from the experience. Here are some key takeaways:

### **1. Understanding Local Dynamics:**

- Workshops exposed the importance of understanding the specific needs and challenges faced by IDPs and returnees in Bamiyan, including cultural, social, and economic factors that influence their experiences.

### **2. Building Trust:**

- Establishing trust among participants was crucial. Engaging local leaders and creating a safe space for dialogue facilitated open communication and encouraged honest sharing of experiences.

### **3. Inclusivity Matters:**

- Ensuring representation from diverse backgrounds, including women, youth, and marginalized groups, provided a holistic understanding of community issues and promoted inclusive advocacy efforts.

### **4. Need for Continued Engagement:**

- One-time workshops are not enough. Continuous engagement and follow-up activities are essential to maintain momentum and support for ongoing advocacy efforts.

## **VII. SUSTAINABILITY**

There are various approaches to sustain the result of the program, which are as follow:

**Collaborative Approach:** Engage local NGOs, government bodies, and community leaders in planning and executing the workshop to ensure that it meets the community's needs and leverages existing resources.

**Facilitator Training:** Utilize well-trained facilitators who understand the local context and can sensitively guide discussions, ensuring that all voices are heard and respected.

**Action-oriented Outcomes:** Encourage participants to identify specific advocacy goals and action steps. This helps translate discussions into tangible initiatives that can lead to meaningful change.

**Documentation and Follow-up:** Document discussions, agreements, and outcomes to track progress and serve as a reference for future advocacy efforts. Regular follow-up meetings can help sustain engagement and accountability.

**Empowerment through Capacity Building:** Provide training on advocacy skills, including how to effectively communicate their needs, engage with stakeholders, and mobilize support.

Empowering participants builds confidence and enhances their ability to advocate for themselves

**Utilization of Local Resources:** Leverage local knowledge, practices, and resources in advocacy efforts to enhance relevance and sustainability. Community-based solutions are often more effective and accepted by the populace.

## VIII. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

### ***Conclusion:***

The dialogue and advocacy workshop for Bamiyan's Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees represented a crucial step towards fostering understanding, rebuilding trust, and addressing the needs of the community. Throughout the workshop, participants were able to share their experiences, articulate their challenges, and brainstorm solutions collaboratively. The dialogue and advocacy workshop for Bamiyan Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees served as a vital platform for fostering understanding and rebuilding trust within a community that has faced significant upheaval and adversity. As displacement often brings about feelings of isolation and loss, this workshop aimed to create a safe space for participants to come together, share their stories, and engage in meaningful conversations about their lived experiences.

Throughout the workshop, attendees, who were both IDPs and returnees, had the opportunity to openly discuss the myriad challenges they face. These challenges included issues related to housing, access to healthcare, education for their children, and securing livelihoods. By articulating their grievances and highlighting their specific needs, participants were able to convey the urgency of their situations to local authorities and stakeholders present at the workshop.

Moreover, the collaborative nature of the workshop facilitated brainstorming sessions where participants worked together to develop actionable solutions to their problems. This collective approach not only empowered attendees but also harnessed their diverse perspectives and ideas. It allowed them to identify common goals and create a shared vision for their community's future.

In addition to problem-solving, the workshop included advocacy training, equipping participants with the tools and knowledge necessary to effectively voice their needs and concerns to decision-makers. By emphasizing the importance of advocacy, the workshop sought to ensure that the voices of IDPs and returnees were not only heard but also acted upon by relevant authorities.

The process of sharing experiences also played a crucial role in healing, as many participants found solace in knowing they were not alone in their struggles. Hearing others' stories fostered a sense of solidarity and connection among attendees, which is essential for rebuilding trust within a community that has been fragmented by displacement.

Overall, the workshop represented a significant step towards not only addressing immediate needs but also laying the foundation for long-term resilience and recovery. Through dialogue, advocacy, and community engagement, participants left the workshop feeling more empowered and supported, with a renewed sense of hope for their future in Bamiyan.

Key outcomes from the workshop included:

1. **Enhanced Communication**
2. **Identified Priorities:** Participants identified key priority areas such as access to basic services (health, education, and housing), livelihood support, and community integration efforts.
3. **Actionable Recommendations:** A range of actionable recommendations emerged, including the need for increased advocacy to influence stakeholders.
4. **Commitment to Continuous Engagement:** Stakeholders expressed a commitment to continue engaging with one another, ensuring that IDPs and returnees have a platform to voice their concerns and influence decisions affecting their lives.

#### **Way Forward:**

To build on the momentum generated during the workshop, the following steps are recommended:

1. **Establishment of a Follow-Up Committee:** Create a committee comprising representatives from IDPs and returnees to oversee the implementation of agreed-upon actions and maintain ongoing communication.
2. **Regular Meetings:** Schedule regular follow-up meetings to assess progress, share updates on advocacy efforts, and gather feedback from the IDPs and returnee groups.
3. **Resource Mobilization:** Engage with potential donors and partners to secure the resources necessary for programs that support the integration and well-being of IDPs and returnees.

By adopting these strategies, the program can serve as a foundation for long-term advocacy and support for the Bamiyan IDP and returnee communities, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive and resilient environment for all.