

Call for applications for DERF funding of rapid response interventions related to the following humanitarian crisis:

Title: Forced Population Movement to Afghanistan

Country and location(s): Afghanistan (all locations with returnees)

DERF Funding Modality: Applicants are to apply for the DERF Funding Modality *Rapid Response* as per the DERF Funding Guidelines.

Call window for submission of applications: Applications are received and processed on an ongoing basis from **26th June 2025 until 30th July 2025 at 12:00 noon CEST**.

Please note that due to the summer holidays, the DERF office will be closed during weeks 28, 29, and 30. During this period, applications will not be processed but may be uploaded by applicants. Applications will be reviewed starting on 30th July and will be assessed in the order in which they are received.

Funds allocated for this Call: The DERF allocates a total of up to **DKK 2.8 million** for this call. Applicants can apply for a **maximum DKK 700.000** each.

Piloting flexible funds and 5% local administration: Under this call, you may (optionally) include 10% of *flexible funds* for activities. Furthermore, *local partner administration* is now a lumpsum of up to 5% of total partner costs. Please read carefully all the details about this pilot in the following [Guiding Note](#).

Alert title and location(s)	Alert type, source and date	Crisis type	Information on the humanitarian crisis and emergency relief needs	Known DK org. in crisis location(s)	Assessment of DERF relevance
Title: Forced Population Movement to Afghanistan Country & locations: Afghanistan (all locations with returnees)	Alert Type: Local Alert Alerting Organisation: Rebuild Aid Foundation Crisis Start: 28 th May 2025 Sources supplemented with: IOM, UN Migration Flash Update 02.06.2025 UNHCR, Iran-	Spike in protracted crisis	Background The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is witnessing a spike following the forced return of Afghan nationals from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Since 20 th March 2025, over 401,700 Afghans have returned to Afghanistan from Iran following the Iranian Government's deadline (UNHCR, 03.06.2025). Since May 2025, there has been a notable increase in the forced return of Afghan nationals and recent statements from Iranian authorities outlining plans to further escalate deportations of Afghan nationals. A public announcement made on 28 th May 2025, set a deadline of 6 th July 2025, for all undocumented Afghans to leave Iran, a move that could impact up to 4 million individuals and could become one of the largest forced returns of displaced people in the region in years. (IOM, 02.06.2025). Of particular concern is the rise in the deportation of families, a shift from the previous trend where most returnees were single young men. In May 2025, IOM reported the return of 15,675 families from Iran, marking a 2.3-fold increase from the 6,879 families that returned in April. The number of undocumented families returning in May 2025 is over three times greater than that recorded in May 2024. The increase in forced returns from Iran is happening concurrently with ongoing mass deportations from Pakistan, where thousands are being returned each week. More than 230,500 Afghans have returned from Pakistan to Afghanistan since April 2025 (UNHCR, 03.06.2025). Humanitarian impact Afghanistan is grappling with a dire humanitarian crisis in 2025, as 22.9 million people, almost half the population, are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. The ongoing economic collapse, climate-related insecurity, and restrictive policies contribute to the deteriorating situation (WFP, 01.02.2025). The mass deportations are occurring against the backdrop of a deepening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan where returnees face immense challenges upon arrival. The growing pressure is further straining the country's already fragile reception and reintegration systems—particularly in regions with high concentrations of returnees (IOM, 02.06.2025). High numbers of returns further burden over-stretched basic services and local resources in host communities and underline the need for durable solutions in a country already grappling	Number of organisations present in-country: 12 Number of organisations with external funding experience (both CSF and DERF grants): 7 Number of organisations present in specific localities: 12	Critical emergency and/or protection needs: Yes Particularly vulnerable groups: Yes Timeliness of potential DERF funded intervention: Yes Significant funding gap exists: Yes DERF funds available: Yes

	Afghanistan, Returns Emergency Response 03.06.2025 WFP Sitrep 01.02.2025 UNDP/ DONARE, Humanitarian News 30.04.2025 OCHA, Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 01.12.2024	with an estimated 6.3 million people living in protracted displacement (OCHA, 01.12.2024). Many returnees lack basic needs such as shelter, income, food, clean water, and healthcare. As far back as May 2024, nearly 87% of returnee households required housing assistance, 80% needed financial support, and 71% lacked enough food. New arrivals are expected to face similar hardships. Many families live in informal camps or overcrowded shelters with limited services. The healthcare system is under strain, and access to education, particularly for returnee children and women, is extremely curtailed. Employment opportunities are scarce, especially for those without documentation, and the economic crisis exacerbates these challenges. (UNHCR, 03.06.2025). Prioritised Emergency Actions • Food security & clean drinking water, including emergency WASH assistance • Emergency shelters and/or temporary housing • Emergency healthcare, including provision of medicine and psychosocial support • Protection of exposed and vulnerable people, including documentation/legal assistance and reunification (Restoring Family Links) Vulnerability Interventions must respond to the needs of particularly vulnerable groups. Focus must be on returnees and their host communities/families. Vulnerable groups within the group of returnees and host communities are female/child headed households, pregnant and lactating women, children under the age of 5, elderly people, chronically sick people and people with disabilities. It is important to underline the need for interventions to show due consideration of the principle of ‘do no harm’, particularly given the pervasive internal displacement and hardship faced by millions of Afghans already residing in Afghanistan. Funding Situation Afghanistan’s economy remains highly vulnerable, further exacerbated by a sharp decline in international aid, including a recent 90-day pause in US funding. This has led to the closure of healthcare facilities and severe food shortages. Due to funding constraints, IOM was only able to assist 1,106 families (17%) and 585 individuals (2.3%) of the returnees from Iran (IOM, 03.06.2025), limiting their ability to respond to the urgent needs of these returnees, whilst WFP assistance plans from March-August 2025 are just 5% funded. Both the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and the HNRP are significantly underfunded, with only 7% and 10% funding, respectively (UNDP, 30.04.2025). Humanitarian Access Humanitarian access varies significantly across the country, with challenges shaped by the specific context in each area and further compounded by decades of conflict and protracted displacement, fluid population movements, chronic underdevelopment, widespread poverty, food insecurity, and recurring natural disasters. DERF applicants and implementing partners should identify locally updated information related to targeted geographical access given the challenges in providing up-to-date information and similarly duly consider which provinces and districts witness the greatest influx and impact of returnees.	Recommend: Activate DERF
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