German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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New German programme will help Afghan refugees in Pakistan return home

Kabul, 12th December 2015 – Today, Afghanistan, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UN-HCR), and Germany agreed on a new initiative that will help Afghan refugees in Pakistan return home to Afghanistan. UNHCR will be responsible for managing the project, which will run in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. The German government will provide nearly AFN 900 million for the programme, financed through KfW Development Bank.

The programme to promote the sustainable return and reintegration of Afghan refugees (SRRAR) will be active in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The aim of the programme is to address concerns and challenges refugees face when they make the journey home.

In Pakistan, the programme will give Afghan refugees the information they need to take informed decisions on their return home. If they decide to do so, the programme will help them prepare with training in job skills and logistical support for their return. In Afghanistan, returning refugees will get help finding new housing and new opportunities to sustain a livelihood. The SRRAR programme will also help improve infrastructure in communities which receive returning refugees.

H.E. Deputy Minister for Finance, Mohammad Mustafa Mastoor, signed the agreement for financing the programme.

As Ms. Maya Ameratunga, UNHCR representative in Afghanistan, explained, “Afghans returning home sometimes face challenges accessing basic services, finding jobs or integrating into their communities. The new programme to promote the return of Afghan refugees will address these issues. Together we can help people return home in dignity, invest in their communities and rebuild their lives.”

The project is linked to the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR). Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, in collaboration with UNHCR, agreed on the SSAR in 2012. The strategy aims at identifying and managing sustainable solutions to help Afghan refugees return home.

On behalf of the German government, KfW Development Bank finances projects implemented by governmental and other partners in Afghanistan in various sectors, including water, energy, health, education, sustainable economic development, culture, and good governance. In 2015, Germany’s commitments in the field of financial cooperation added up to almost AFN 14 billion (EUR 190 million).

Released by the PR-Unit of the German Cooperation with Afghanistan.
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