DRC Afghanistan

Accountability Framework (AF)
April 2016

This accountability framework summarizes those DRC commitments to our stakeholders in Afghanistan that are additional to DRC’s global accountability framework. The global accountability framework is valid for DRC and DDG everywhere; it is available on www.drc.dk

1. Brief description of the programme

The issue of Afghan refugees, returnees and those internally displaced must be seen in a regional context, comprising Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan. Consequently, DRC is strengthening and expanding a strategic regional approach to Afghan displacement. Given the highly volatile security situation and fluctuating crisis scenarios, DRC carries out a comprehensive set of activities reflecting specific local needs and conditions, focusing on improved protection and livelihoods as well as establishing contingency capacities along the entire displacement axis.

Three decades of conflict have left Afghanistan as one of the world’s poorest countries, despite modest progress reported in the health and education sector. According to the UNDP, the life expectancy at birth is 60.4 years. The country’s limited resources are further strained by the return of almost five million refugees since the fall of the Taliban regime in late 2001, and by 660,000 IDPs1, who have been forced from their land mainly due to conflict but also natural disasters such as drought and floods.

DRC focuses mainly on livelihood, protection and emergency response activities to support the increasing number of returnees and IDPs squatting in both urban and rural areas (areas of high return) including primarily the Eastern, Western and Central regions of Afghanistan and in a smaller scale the Southern and Northern regions. DRC operates in urban settings where living conditions are deplorable and health hazards accelerated due to poor shelter, lack of access to basic necessities and land, and scarce employment opportunities. DRC uses a participatory, community-based/driven approach in its programming.

DRC started up operations in Afghanistan in January of 2012; however it has an extensive operational history in the country, mainly through the two following entities.

- The consortium interventions of the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR, since 1984). DRC is a founding member of DACAAR, which has almost 30 years of experience conducting relief and development work in Afghanistan. Among DACAAR’s main activities are safe water supply, hygiene education and sustainable rural development, with families from the returnee and IDP communities being among the main beneficiaries.
- The Danish Deming Group (DDG, since 1998), is DRC’s humanitarian mine action unit. In Afghanistan, DDG has recovered and disposed of more than 33,000 landmines and 1.3 million pieces of unexploded ordnance. The beneficiaries of DDG Afghanistan include recently returned refugees from Iran and Pakistan, vulnerable rural populations and the wider humanitarian and development community.

1 UNHCR March 2014
2. DRC’s objectives, partners and stakeholders

DRC Afghanistan's programme goal is to promote durable solutions to displacement related problems, on the basis of humanitarian principles and human rights. Durable solutions are based on long term safety, restitution or compensation for lost property, and establishment of an environment that sustains life of former refugees (returnees) and IDPs under normal economic and social conditions.

The specific programme objectives are the following:

1. Reduce immediate suffering of displaced women and men by integrated emergency and protection responses;
2. Strengthen displaced and returnee women and men’s capacity to attain sustainable livelihoods including the integration of community protection and safety;
3. Strengthen protection mechanisms and institutional development in DRC areas of operation to support durable solutions;
4. Enhance human security by clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance; reduce the risks associated with the threat of small arms and light weapons;
5. Reduce the risks associated with landmines and unexploded ordnance by providing risk education and raising awareness;
6. Support the transit to national ownership of DDG’s Afghanistan programme implementation.

DRC’s main partners are: the local civil society; other NGO (local and international); and relevant UN agencies. DRC coordinates its operations with other humanitarian actors as needed.

Stakeholders include the Afghan authorities and other relevant actors in DRC’s areas of operation.

DRC’s primary beneficiaries are the Afghan population affected by displacement.

DRC’s donors in Afghanistan include the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the European Union, and the United Nations Trust Fund among others.
3. Organigram including staff line functions

The organizational chart below - including both DRC and DDG in Afghanistan - illustrates the current structure.

4. DRC Afghanistan is committed to working within or meeting the requirements of the following codes, laws, standards, etc.

DRC is a rights based organization. International humanitarian law, refugee law and international law for human rights compose DRC’s global operational framework equally applied in the Afghanistan programme.

In addition to the internationally acknowledged standards for humanitarian assistance listed in the DRC global AF (available on www.drc.dk), DRC is committed to the following national standards in Afghanistan:

- Afghan national labor law;
- NGO administrative requirements such as registration and visa regimes as set by the Afghan authorities;
- ACBAR\(^2\) Code of Conduct.

\(^2\) Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development
5. DRC Afghanistan relations to its beneficiaries

DRC is committed to providing information to its beneficiaries where the organisation deems it safe to do so. Due to the highly sensitive and complex situation and to the security constraints in Afghanistan, DRC adopts a low profile approach. DRC works in close cooperation with local authorities and community representatives to identify and liaise with beneficiaries.

DRC seeks to the extent possible to ensure beneficiaries’ participation throughout the project cycle. This is secured through the two following approaches.

- **Community-based/driven development:** DRC works closely with communities who themselves identify their needs. DRC bases its community assistance on a Participatory Learning Approach whereby DRC staff is in constant dialogue with beneficiaries in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities. Thus, communities are empowered to identify their most urgent needs which DRC will then respond as well as advocate for with the relevant duty bearers.

- **Complaint mechanisms:** DRC adheres to ACBAR’s Code of Conduct and the complaint mechanism as set for all NGO ACBAR members. Beneficiaries and stakeholders can raise relevant concerns to ACBAR and/or directly to DRC. Furthermore, DRC beneficiaries are informed by DRC staff about their right to give feedback or raise a complaint. Any written or verbal complaint received is accepted and is dealt with by DRC. An even more comprehensive complaints mechanism for DRC/DDG Afghanistan is being developed in 2016, which will include the use of free hotline numbers for beneficiaries who do not have regular contact to give feedback to DRC programmes / Activities.

DRC and its employees - in the relationship with beneficiaries - are required at all times to act in accordance with the following five fundamental principles representing the value compass of DRC.

- Humanity - people’s right to a life in dignity takes precedence over politics and principles;
- Respect - for the equal rights of human beings;
- Independency and neutrality - towards the environment where DRC operates;
- Participation - of the people DRC helps;
- Honesty and transparency - for all beneficiaries, donors, partners and other stakeholders.

In addition, the following operational principles are applied throughout the project cycle in order to ensure the quality and impact of interventions on beneficiaries.

**Participation:** DRC/DDG includes the target group in project design, beneficiary selection and implementation. It also ensures, to the extent possible, beneficiary, community and administration contributions in the form of labour and materials to housing, infrastructure and income-generating projects. Complaint mechanisms are put in place in order to receive feedback and make necessary adjustments.

**Capacity Development:** DRC/DDG works to strengthen capacities of its partner communities, duty bearers and LNGOs, primarily through implementing projects in close partnership, so offering practical on-the-job guidance as well as formal training.

**Gender:** Gender is mainstreamed into projects through analysis of gender-specific risks, vulnerabilities and capacities. DRC/DDG also internally ensures that women staff is prioritized in its staff capacity building efforts. An equal composition is sought whenever feasible among national staff.

**Advocacy:** DRC/DDG seeks to advocate on behalf of displaced and conflict affected groups. DRC/DDG is carefully developing initiatives to promote the rights of displaced and conflict affected
persons in the region.

**Do-No-Harm:** The tailor made approach developed on a careful risk analysis in most programming ensures DRC/DDG’s attention to Do-No-Harm. Likewise, DRC/DDG staff are aware to limit and manage potential expectations of the target group, e.g. through transparency of project ability and beneficiary selection.

**Collaboration with Local Partners:** As part of its capacity building efforts and exit strategy, as well as to harness local expertise, DRC seeks to partner with LNGOs and communities on its projects. In general, the operation will be most relevant and sustainable when based on a partnership with local communities.

**Complementarity:** DRC/DDG has always worked closely with other organizations to avoid duplication in assistance. Consortia between NGOs are always something DRC would engage in when relevant, feasible and pertinent.

**Sustainability:** is an integral part of DRC/DDG’s overall goal of durable solutions. The priorities and intentions of beneficiaries are always assessed as part of project design. This is complemented by such means as e.g. sharing responsibility for infrastructure construction with communities and local administrations, and providing training in business management and entrepreneurship to recipients of business grants.

**Environment:** DRC/DDG’s projects include an understanding of the effects of activities on the environment and efforts to minimize or mitigate harmful ones. Housing projects, for instance, and building materials provided must meet government standards. The use of asbestos roofing materials is forbidden.

### 6. List of current projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Relevant authorities</th>
<th>Funding donors</th>
<th>Implementing partners</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection of displaced populations in Afghanistan</td>
<td>Protect and promote durable solutions for people in the Af-Pak region who are displaced due to conflict, natural disasters and/or remnants of war.</td>
<td>25,460</td>
<td>Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation; Ministry of Economy; Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.</td>
<td>DANIDA</td>
<td>CEDO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting the sustainable return of Afghan refugee returnees and reducing the prospect of IDPs seeking asylum</td>
<td>1. Stabilise and reduce the prospect and flow of irregular arrivals from source countries, including providing support for internally displaced persons; Encourage sustainable voluntary returns of persons no longer in need of protection, including through increasing livelihood opportunities.</td>
<td>21864 (direct)</td>
<td>SSAR, with MoRR - Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), the National Priority Programmes (NPPs)</td>
<td>DIBP</td>
<td>CEDO – Community Empowerment and Development Organisation RAADA – Rehabilitation Association and Agriculture Development for Afghanistan</td>
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<td>Provision of urgent multipurpose cash assistance designed to cover NFI and shelter needs for those affected by the October 2015 earthquake in East and Northeast Afghanistan</td>
<td>To strengthen political participation and rights protection for marginalised urban Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Kabul, Afghanistan</td>
<td>360 households as part of new civic structures; at least 100 HH will receive protection grants; 1350 children will benefit from mobile libraries.</td>
<td>Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation; Ministry of Education.</td>
<td>CHF</td>
<td>Aschiana and HAWCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provision of urgent NFI and shelter support to those displaced by conflict and natural disasters in North and North East Afghanistan</td>
<td>Ensure conflict displaced persons have adequate protection from the weather and privacy for family life through the provision of emergency shelter and NFI's</td>
<td>13300</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>CHF</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Logistics, warehousing and fleet maintenance in Afghanistan</td>
<td>1) Logistical Support, including warehousing, transport, fleet maintenance, fuel; 2) Field office premises maintenance.</td>
<td>UNHCR's beneficiaries in Afghanistan</td>
<td>Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation; Ministry of Economy.</td>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response Mechanism in Afghanistan</td>
<td>To provide humanitarian assistance in response to assessed emergency needs in Afghanistan</td>
<td>87675</td>
<td>CDCs, DAIL, DoRR, ANDMA, provincial governors</td>
<td>ECHO</td>
<td>PIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social protection assistance to SGBV victims in urban displacement</td>
<td>To improve the quality of life of displaced women in Afghanistan</td>
<td>Direct: 4245 Indirect: 10440</td>
<td>Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation; Ministry of Economy; Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.</td>
<td>EU</td>
<td>HAWKA, TABISH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting durable solutions for the most vulnerable Afghan returnees and IDPs</td>
<td>Enhance the protection of, and promote durable solutions for, displaced communities in Afghanistan.</td>
<td>2750</td>
<td>Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation; Ministry of Economy; Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.</td>
<td>BPRM</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building peace through support for women's access to services and decision makers in Jalalabad, Afghanistan</td>
<td>To support local and national peace processes and encourage peaceful conflict resolution through promotion of women’s basic rights and participation in decision making at the grassroots level</td>
<td>Direct: 4600 Indirect 46,900 beneficiaries</td>
<td>Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation; Ministry of Women’s Affairs; Ministry of Justice</td>
<td>EU - IcSP</td>
<td>TABISH</td>
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7. Essence of Accountability Baseline and Accountability Improvement Plan

DRC Operations Handbook, Programme Handbook, Strategic Programme Document and other relevant guidelines have been distributed by the management to all sub-offices.

Relevant accountability sessions are included in the Country Annual Review and other regular coordination mechanisms.

Accountability Improvement Plan action points are all included in the Results Contract and follow up is reported on quarterly basis.

The contextual AF has been developed and made available through DRC website (www.drc.dk).