

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Workshop on Muslim Diaspora
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AFGHANISTAN BACKGROUND INFORMATION



↪ Official Name: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

↪ Total Area: 652.230 km²

↪ Population: 38 Million (Approximately)

↪ Literacy Rate: 48 % (July 2017)

↪ Official Languages: Pashto and Dari (Persian)

↪ Neighboring countries: Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, China and Pakistan

↪ Length of Borders: Land borders 5,987 km



AFGHANISTAN MIGRATION'S HISTORY

Migration and mobility have been part of Afghans' way of life throughout history. Although in the first half of the century the emigration rate remained steady, Afghanistan witnessed a recognizable increase in emigration in the 1970s. The oil boom in the 1970s, along with high wages in Iran, lack of employment opportunities for educated Afghans in Afghanistan, and widespread droughts in the country were major push and pull factors for Afghans to migrate to Iran, the Middle Eastern oil rich countries, and Pakistan.



AFGHANISTAN'S 4 EMIGRATION PHASES SINCE 1979

1st Phase: Soviet- Mujahidin War – 1979 – 1989: Return Migration; End of the War :1989-1992



2nd Phase: Civil War/ Taliban Regime : 1992-2001



3rd Phase: US War on Terror : 2001-2012



4th Phase: Migration to Europe: 2012 to present



AFGHANISTAN INITIATIVES IN MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SECTORS

- ↪ Unconditional deportation of 100 thousand asylum seekers from European countries is prevented,
- ↪ Return of 1.96 million repatriates has been managed,
- ↪ USD 7 billion poured into country's economy through money transfers by refugees in 2016,
- ↪ USD 701 million assistance is attracted and USD 336 million pledge aid is received.





NATIONAL POLICIES TOWARDS MIGRATION

- ✚ human and migrants Anti-Trafficking law is approved, asylum seeking law is processed and strategic documents are ratified,
- ✚ Accession to the protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air,
- ✚ High commission on Migration Affairs under president's chairmanship is established,
- ✚ Strategic committee for Regional Solution is created,
- ✚ IDP's and repatriates executive committee is established,
- ✚ Information Center for Refugees is established and connected to 12 provinces with the most repatriates, four land border and Kabul airport.

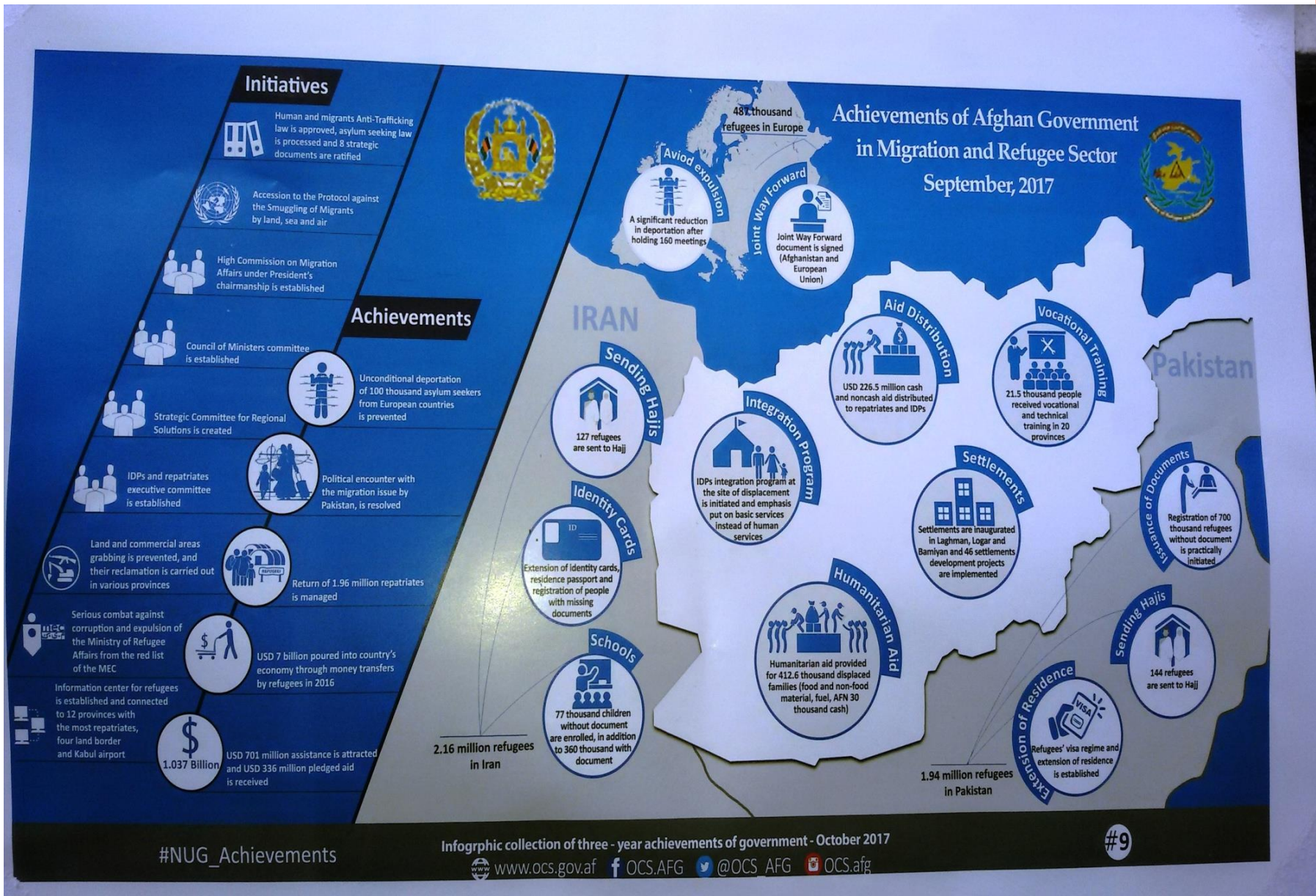


Countries Where Majority of Afghan Citizens Living in:

Pakistan and Iran together host some 2.5 million Afghan registered refugees, with equivalent numbers of unregistered refugees also expected to be present in both host countries. In addition, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 settled in the United States, at least 150,000 in the United Arab Emirates, perhaps 125,000 in Germany, and smaller numbers in Canada, Australia and across Europe. While many of those in the UAE are temporary labor migrants, the majority elsewhere are settled permanently and often educated and skilled. It is estimated that there are about 10,000 Afghan refugees in India, mostly settled in Delhi, including many Hindus and Sikhs. The economic and political significance of the Diaspora outweighs its numerical significance.



Programs Towards Ensuring Sustainable Relations with Migrants



Challenges of Afghan Migrants in Foreign Countries

- The main challenges of Afghan Migration is that because of lack of regular migration, most of Afghans migrate irregularly which causes human smuggling and even human trafficking. Afghans try to escape the insecurity and economic problems and deal with smugglers to flee the country. They cross difficult and dangerous routes especially the sea which make them vulnerable. The smugglers also using their vulnerability can easily exploit them.
- Another problem that migrants have in the host countries especially in Europe and America is their lack of integration that cause some challenges to the country they are living in. there for Afghan migrants are alienated and thus they feel stranger at the host countries.



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- **Job Opportunities:** There are lacks of job opportunities for Afghan migrants in host countries even if they are well-educated. There are many difficulties for Afghan migrants such as language barriers, and several other issues they are not recruited in the country. Because the national of the host countries are prioritized in term of job opportunities.
- **Education problems:** As education is the right of each individual human in any country. But unfortunately most of Afghan refugees are deprived from these rights in most of host countries.
- **Health Condition:** Most of Afghan migrants especially in Europe and Balkan countries do not have access to health centers, many children and pregnant women have lost their live due to lack age of health centers for them in the place where they are placed.

Thank you

