EVALUATION REPORT

RESPONSE TO DROUGHT IN AFGHANISTAN

Funded by: Civil Society in Development (CiSU)
Implemented by: Danish People's Aid (DPA/DAARTT) and Organization for Relief Development (RDA)
Evaluation Partner: Rainbow Consulting Service (RCS)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

More than 20 provinces of Afghanistan are hit by severe drought in the past years that induced displacements, among other consequences. Approximately 90% of country's population rely on agriculture, livestock and farming that were affected by the drought. According to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (UNOCHA) estimation, around 2 million people are expected to fall in sever food insecurity trap due to the drought who would need immediate humanitarian assistance until end of 2018. Northern provinces of the country, particularly Faryab, is among worst hit provinces by the drought that caused displacement of thousands of households to Maimana city and Andkhoy. Project's intervention in the form of unconditional cash assistance to 437 families (US$ 400 for each household) and increasing 'access to safe drinking water' to more than 5,000 families was the right life-saving intervention at the right time that positively impacted lives of thousands of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Faryab. The assistances satisfied IDPs' basic households need (as expressed by 95% of cash beneficiaries) and increased availability and access to safe drinking water for IDPs and host community members in 9 municipal districts (*i.e. Nahia - ناحیه*) of Maimana city, most of whom usually traveled up to a kilometer distance to fetch water.

In terms of effectiveness, the project to a great extent achieved its development objective of 'enhancing resilience of drought-affected IDPs against the emergency crises in Faryab'. Though all target beneficiaries were perfectly eligible for humanitarian assistance, larger portion of project beneficiaries were conflict-induced as against drought-induced IDPs. As high as 77% of cash beneficiaries explained 'conflicts/insecurity' as main reason for their displacement, followed by both 'conflict and drought' (15%). Only 5% of beneficiaries were displaced due to drought. Likewise, more than 55% of 'access to safe drinking water' beneficiaries were host community members, as against drought-induced IDPs.

In total, an amount of AFN 28,840 (US$ 400) was received by each beneficiary household in the course of 6 months from the commencement of the project – expect transportation cost, all administration costs were borne by Organization for Relief Development (ORD). *M-Paisa*[1] option for transferring the money to cash beneficiaries were used by ORD that was very efficient and effective, and reduced potential opportunities of corruption. Conversely, the primary data from the field suggests that project resources' utilization was not very efficient for digging of boreholes (water wells) and its overall construction in Maimana city. The average market price in Faryab for digging a borehole of 70-meter depth, 12 inches of diameter, and 4 inches of casing with high quality materials including other related work is approximately AFN 150,000 (US$ 2,000). For a borehole of 8 inches diameter, the market price is, however, roughly AFN 75,000 (US$ 1,000). ORD project documents, on the other hand, indicate that per borehole cost is approximately US$ 3,233 which is much higher as compared to market price. However, factors such as locations, soil quality, security situation of target sites etc. may affect the cost. Determining the actual cost of digging and operationalizing boreholes in Faryab warrants a detailed study that is out of the scope of this evaluation.

Quantifying short, medium and long-term impacts of the project is difficult at this stage. Nevertheless, the project had an immediate positive impact on the living conditions of target IDP and host community households in Faryab. The assistances strengthened economic conditions of households and capacitated them satisfy their basic household needs (e.g. food, water, cloth, fuel etc.). They have

[1] M-Paisa (Mobile money) technology allows Roshan customers send and receive payments and manage their bank accounts on users' mobile phone. It facilitates transfer of funds using mobile phone through SMS and IVR system. It provides financial services to people who do not have a formal bank account for transactions.

also assisted in reduction of debt burdens on IDPs that is usually used as a coping mechanism. Cash assistance, in particular, decreased negative and harmful copying strategies of the target households in the short-term, and improved their health conditions. However, the assistance could have potential negative social and economic impacts if not used wisely. Assistance to a particular segment of communities (e.g. IDPs) could create tensions between the community members and increase the cost of living for IDPs – some target beneficiaries mentioned increase in their house rents as compared to last year. The assistance could also attract other IDPs to migrate, which in turn could put pressure on job markets in Faryab and hence reducing personal and household incomes. Thus, a thorough impact assessment of the project at a later stage is recommended to measure impacts of the project on the ground.

On sustainability, the project is sustainable in nature. Sustainability of short-term intervention in the form of unconditional cash assistance at this stage was difficult to measure. The sustainability of such interventions need to be measured if they are persistent and continued for a relatively longer period of time. In contrast, access to safe drinking water is expected to be sustainable and benefit communities in Maimana city. Lands allocated for boreholes are formally handed over to ORD by the community members and they have also assumed responsibility of repair and maintenance after project completion. ORD also has government counterparts' consent in case of public lands allocation for some boreholes. Generally, 'access to safe drinking water' component of the project is sustainable if existing problems are resolved. Some of the issues with boreholes are:

a. One of the boreholes' water is not usable for drinking due to high concentration of sodium chloride (salt) in it.
b. As per other stakeholders' experience, hand-pumps of boreholes with more than 60 meters of depth seldom works properly – the depth of 5 boreholes is more than 60 meters
c. The diameter of at least 8 boreholes is 8", and the rest are 12". The wider the diameter of boreholes, there will be larger water column and more availability of water.

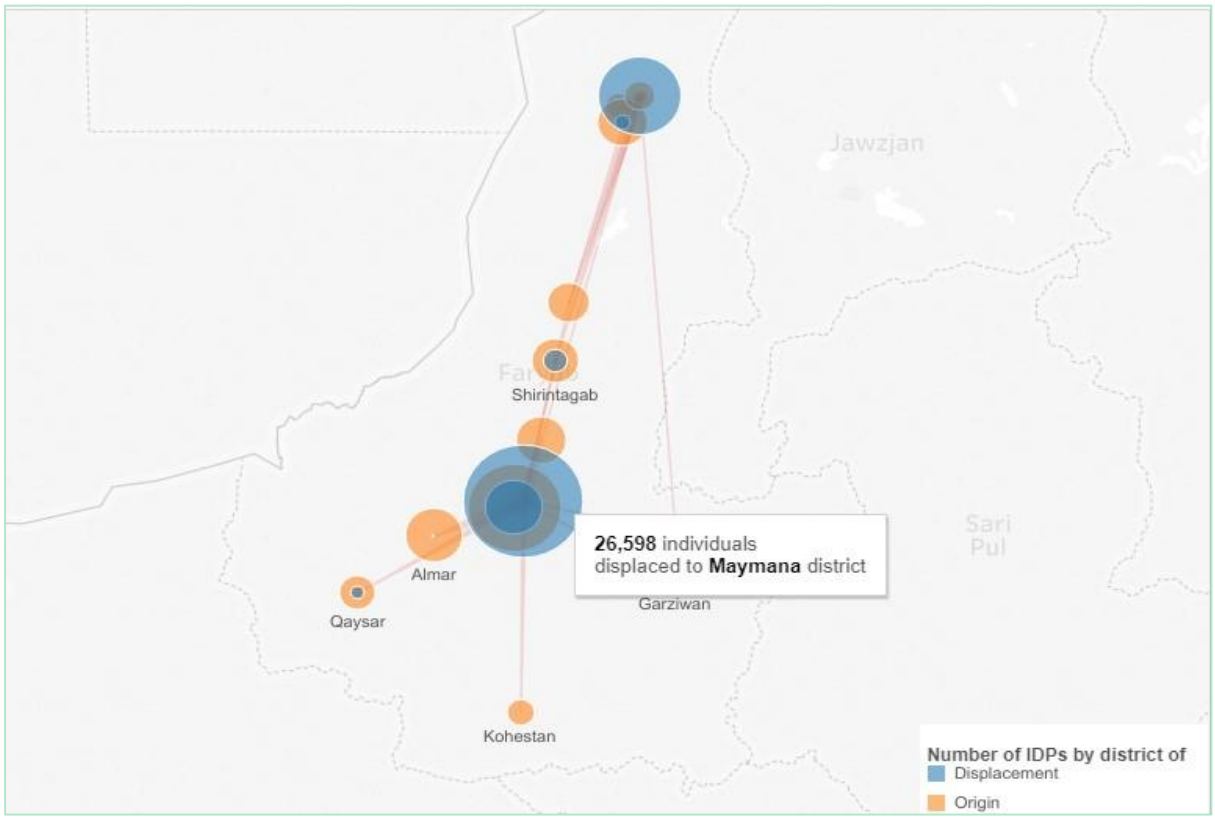
In addition, the project considered 'humanitarian core standard' during implementation of the project and met their quality criteria to a great extent.

To sum up, project was designed at the right time to intervene for increasing the resilience of the IDP households in Faryab at the time of emergency and crises. The project had a positive impact on IDPs living conditions and is sustainable. This evaluation also provides detailed 'lesson learnt' and 'recommendations' that could be considered by the donor/implementing agencies for their similar future interventions.

FINDINGS

Relevance of 'cash assistance' and 'access to water'

Displacement in Afghanistan is motivated by variety of factors. Conflicts/insecurity and drought are the two major *push factors* for IDPs abandoning their places of origin in Faryab. Economic motives (employment, relative food security, assistance etc.) are among strong *pull factors* for displacements to urban areas. Approximately 6,954 families (48,642 individuals, 58% of which are children below 18 years) are displaced from their places of origin since January 2012[2]. Only in the last one year, 6,737 families (47,122 individuals) displaced to Maimana and Andkhoy from other districts of Faryab, that is 97% of total displacement in Faryab since 2012.



Source: UNOCHA

The drought affected more than 20 provinces of Afghanistan in the past years, where the main sources of income for more than 15 million people are agriculture, livestock, and farming. Per the UNOCHA estimation, approximately 2 million people are expected to become severely food insecure due to the drought and would need immediate life-saving humanitarian assistance till end of the year in 2018[3]. Faryab is among the provinces worst hit by severe weather conditions and drought which has affected thousands of families in rural Faryab that also caused their displacement to Maimana. These internally displaced persons (IDP) households were and are still at the risk of famine and hence in dire need of humanitarian assistance to satisfy their basic needs, having access to potable water and protection.

Assisting IDPs and displacement-affected households is among priorities and objectives of the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA), donors and implementers of this project.

[2] https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps

[3] OCHA, June 2018 (https://www.unocha.org/story/drought-grips-large-parts-afghanistan)

Supporting IDP needs is outlined in National IDP policy enacted by Afghan government in 2013 - one of the objectives of the policy is to *address the emergency needs and concerns of both the IDPs and displacement-affected communities including those which host IDPs*.

Supporting IDPs and host community members in Faryab is also in-line with donor's (Civil Society in Development - CISU) organizational objectives - CISU supports Danish organisations' work nationally and globally for a just and sustainable world. The project is implemented by Danish People's Aid (DPA or Dansk Folkehjælp) and Organization for Relief Development (ORD). DPA's mission is to support marginalized people around the globe and ORD provides emergency assistance, supports protection interventions and building partnerships with humanitarian, social and economic agencies to address the needs of the most underprivileged communities in Afghanistan.

The intervention in the form of both **unconditional cash assistance** and **digging wells** to increase access to safe drinking water for IDPs in Maimana were the right intervention at the right time by the donor and in-line with its objectives and GoIRA's priorities. Data collected from cash beneficiaries suggest that majority (95%) of IDPs were in dire need of cash to satisfy their basic households needs. Lack of money to buy food for the household was among significant problems that every beneficiary household was faced with before the intervention. All respondents expressed their satisfaction on timeliness and relevance of cash assistance when they were assisted.

We had nothing when we left our place and came here. We had no food to eat, no water, no place to live, and no money to buy food and warm cloth. This assisted money helped us a lot! – Allahdad, IDP to Tokali Khana.

Maimana). May family is big, and I had no money and no food. I repaid some of my debts and bought food for family. Abdul Hakim, IDP to Bagh Ziarat.

Furthermore, studies show that IDP households lack access to potable water immediately after their displacement and some have to travel a distance of 500-1000 meters to fetch water. Key informant interviews with community elders and head of CDCs in Faryab indicate that there were two types of wells in their communities – i) boreholes (private or public), and ii) shallow wells. Access to water for IDPs from privately owned boreholes is at discretion of owners, which is usually restricted. Water from public boreholes is generally accessed through electric submersible and hand-pumps that work well for boreholes with depth of no more than 60 meters. Due to lack of electricity in Faryab province since months, access to water from many electrically-operated boreholes are restricted. Most of the shallow wells, on the other hand, are dried out due to persistent drought spells Faryab. As a result, households faced a severe shortage of water in their communities and hence had to travel long distances to fetch water for their household needs.

I used to travel long to reach to the nearest water well – about 20-30 minutes and holding heavy jerry cans. Culturally it was inappropriate for us to pass areas where men congregate, but we had to do so to get the water. Now we have water near to our residence and we are very satisfied from it.

Qandi Gul – IDP to Shamalic village (Maimana city)

Primary data collected from the field confirms that water points at some target areas were far (more than 500 meters) from their residence and in majority of the cases, women and children are responsible to fetch potable water for household needs.

Consequently, both 'cash assistance' and increasing 'access to potable water' for IDP households in Faryab was very relevant given the critical situation of these households while reintegrating in new communities. Cash assistance were mostly used by the beneficiaries to satisfy their basic household needs, repay their debts, and on health that positively impacted their lives. Digging wells in 9 municipal districts of Maimana city increased access to potable drinking water for IDPs and host community members, who otherwise traveled long distances to fetch water.

Effectiveness

IDPs are among the most vulnerable population in the country and are much exposed to external shocks as compared to poor households in urban areas. In terms of food insecurity, IDPs are worse off than any poor segment of the society in Afghanistan[4]. According to the World Bank Report based on National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA), at least 14% of the IDP households reported to have problems satisfying their food needs several times a month, as compared to only 3% of the urban poor[5]. A recent study on IDPs in 5 major Afghan cities conducted by Samuelhall confirms that food insecurity has become a more serious problem for IDPs as compared to past years[6]. Literature also reveals that IDPs resort to harmful coping strategies (such as skipping meals, resorting to loans, sending children to work etc.) to increase their resilience against shocks and emergency crises.

The situation of IDPs displaced to Maimana from other Faryab districts is no better than IDPs displaced in other parts of the country. Their vulnerability to shocks and crises is high and are mostly aid-dependent due to lack of productive assets. Drought in Faryab and other northern provinces impacted thousands of families and resulted in displacement of many households to Maimana. The drought also caused fall in water tables that dried out hundreds of shallow wells and boreholes. The condition of IDPs and host community members is acute and are in dire need of potable water, besides other household needs. Given severe living conditions of IDPs in and around Maimana city, and their needs for meeting basic households needs, water and protection, the project provided Multi-purpose cash assistance for 437 IDP families and dug 12 boreholes in 9 municipal districts of Maimana city.

The development objective of the project is to enhance resilience of drought-affected IDPs against the emergency crises in Faryab. Unconditional cash assistance and boreholes, undoubtedly, enhanced resilience of IDPs in Maimana as was expressed by majority of project beneficiaries. The assistance was done at a time when IDPs were struggling with integration in host communities, with no shelter, limited employment opportunities, lack of food and potable water, proper cloths, and heavy indebtedness. Beneficiary households who received cash assistance spent the money to buy food (expressed by 95%), cloth (23%), basic household needs, repay debt and rent payments. Some beneficiaries explained that they still have the assisted cash in hand and spend them with thoughtfulness, so it lasts longer. At least 87% of cash beneficiaries opined that the amount of cash assistance was sufficient to cover their basic needs, while only 3% expressed it to be otherwise. This indicates that the assistance prevented target beneficiaries from resorting to harmful coping strategies in the face of emergency crisis in Faryab.

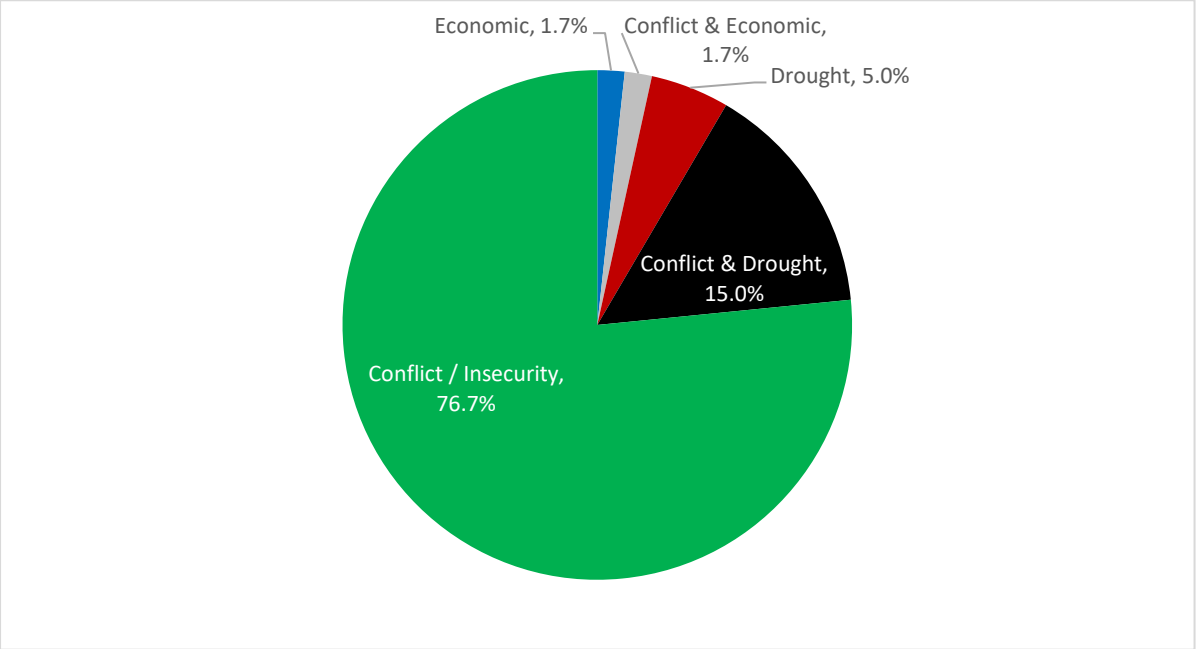
It is worth noting that majority (77%) of cash beneficiaries interviewed explained 'conflicts/insecurity' as prime reason for abandoning their place of origin. Around 15% of respondents mentioned both 'conflicts and drought' as reasons for their displacement, while 'drought' was a pull factor for only 5% of total respondents for this survey.

[4] NRVA – 2011-12

[5] Vulnerability of Internally Displaced Persons in Urban settings, 2015. The World Bank - UNHCR

[6] Escaping War: Where to next? A research study on the challenges of IDP protection in Afghanistan. NRC,iDMC, Samuelhall (2018)

Figure 1 | Reasons for IDP displacement among cash beneficiaries



Similarly, more than 50% of borehole beneficiaries were host community members as against drought-induced IDPs – primary data from CDC heads and community elders also confirmed this.

As against project's development objectives, not all project beneficiaries were IDPs that were affected by drought in their places of origin. Instead, IDPs displaced due to conflicts and insecurity were mostly targeted by project for cash assistance and host community members were mostly targeted for increasing access to safe drinking water. In addition, cash transfer approach through *M-Paisa* added to the effectiveness of the project and increased transparency. However, and at least in one case, corruption was reported by a beneficiary who was added to the beneficiary list conditional on sharing part of the assisted money to selection team. The claim, nevertheless, should be taken with a grain of salt and needs a thorough investigation that is out of scope of this study.

Overall and based on primary data from the field, the project achieved its development objective to a great extent and had a positive impact on beneficiaries' lives. It was effective in enhancing resilience of general IDPs (not drought-induced IDPs specifically) in Maimana through cash assistance and access to safe drinking water.

Efficiency

The usage of mobile technology (M-Paisa) for transferring money to beneficiaries proved to be very efficient and transparent as compared to other models of cash distribution (e.g. cash in person, hawala etc.), and in-kind distribution. Studies on humanitarian assistances suggest that at least 18% more people could be assisted at no extra costs if effective cash assistance option is used by humanitarian organizations instead of in-kind assistance[7]. Using cash transfers through mobile technology (e.g. M-Paisa) makes the delivery more efficient and saves time, cost and resources of humanitarian organizations. Besides reducing the costs and leakages of money significantly, it also promotes financial inclusion of poor. Additionally, transferring cash through mobile technology reduces human interaction and hence potential opportunities for corruption. Government stakeholders of the project in Faryab praised the approach that was novel in the province and confirmed transparency while distribution.

The implementation of M-Paisa system was very good and effective. In the past, no other NGOs implemented this good approach.

Government counterpart – Faryab

For setting up the system, beneficiaries only had to pay a reimbursable amount of AFN 100 for obtaining the mobile sim card, do the required registration with telecom company (Roshan) and getting the training on how to receive their funds, once transferred to their M-Paisa accounts. M-Paisa also charged AFN 50 per withdrawal (total AFN 100 in two rounds of distribution) that was paid by the implementing NGO. Transportation cost, on the other hand, had to be borne by the beneficiaries. Overall, each beneficiary received a net amount of **AFN 28,840** ($400 at exchange rate of $1 = 72.1 AFN) in two rounds.

Component 2 of the project (access to safe drinking water), on the other hand, does not seem to have used the most efficient methods to dig the wells. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) informed that digging of wells in many project sites took longer than usual and used resources inefficiently. Primary data from the filed also indicate that digging, installation of hand-pumps and other related work of the boreholes (wells) were estimated to be very costly as compared to market prices. Market prices from Faryab estimates that a 70-meter depth well with 12 inches of diameter, 4 inches of casing, high quality materials and including labor charges could cost around **AFN 150,000** ($2,000 at exchange rate of $1 = 75 AFN). Other characteristics being the same, a borehole of 8 inches diameter will cost approximately **AFN 75,000** (US$ 1,000) at current market price in Faryab. This is a rough estimate collected through primary data from the field. The cost may vary depending on locations, soil quality, accessibility, security situations of target sites etc.

As a result, report findings suggest that using mobile technology (M-Paisa) for transferring cash to vulnerable IDPs in and around Maimana city, was the most efficient approach adopted by the implementing agencies and hence saved time, cost and resources to achieve project results. In contrast, efficient methods were not used for digging water wells and increasing access to safe drinking water for IDPs and host community members in 9 municipal districts of Maimana city.

[7] Center for Global Development (2015). Doing Cash differently: How cash transfers can transform humanitarian aid?

Impact

Though it is too early to measure the long-term impact of the cash assistance and access to safe drinking water on targeted IDPs in Faryab, both components of the project, undoubtedly, had an immediate positive impact on their lives. The impacts are particularly visible in the following areas:

1. ***Access to basic household needs and safe drinking water:***
   An absolute majority of respondents mentioned to have used the cash assistance in buying food, cloths, fuel for winter and other household necessities, who were otherwise unable to buy them or use harmful coping mechanisms to satisfy their household needs. Almost all IDPs explained that they had to leave their possessions in their places of origin and had minimal stuff with them for survival when arrived to Maimana. Many households (IDPs and host community) also used to travel long distances to fetch water, due to drying out of shallow wells and dropping water tables.

2. ***Decrease in negative coping strategies:***
   IDPs usually rely on negative and harmful coping strategies to satisfy their household needs that include but not limited to: skipping meals by adult members of the household, reducing number of meals, sending children to work, compromising on dietary compositions of food, engage in dangerous work, begging etc. Interview with stakeholders and beneficiaries confirm that the cash assistance to much extent prevented household beneficiaries resort to such coping mechanisms. Water wells' beneficiaries resorted on unsafe drinking waters that caused severe health complications in adults and children.

3. ***Reduction in indebtedness:***
   Getting loan from friends and family is a common coping strategy for IDPs, particularly immediately after their displacements. Studies on IDPs in Afghanistan suggest that loan is a part of regular income for some of the IDP households. Primary data collected from the field exhibits that at least 13% of IDP households mentioned to have used the cash assistance to 'repay their debt' they had taken. As such, the cash assistance certainly helped reduce IDP households' indebtedness. It is also worth mentioning that around 50% of respondents used the cash assistance to pay their house rents which were due since months. Lack of access to public drinking water, households also used to either buy water for drinking or spent money on health due to drinking unsafe water.

4. ***Access to health and education***
   Though not part of this evaluation, the primary data shows that at least 5% of respondents used the cash for health purposes. None of the IDP households, on the other hand, expressed to have spent the cash on education. Access to safe drinking water improves health conditions, as suggested by existing literature.

5. ***Boosting local economy***
   Impact of the cash assistance on local economy is not in the scope of this evaluation and warrants a separate study. However, the cash assistance potentially increased the demand for goods and services in the local economy that fueled the economy on the one hand and increased inflationary pressures on the other hand, if supply is constrained.

Apart from immediate positive impacts of the assistance for IDP households in Faryab, there could be negative impacts of such assistance that is out of the scope of this study. These could include, but not limited to:

1. ***Pull factor for other IDPs***
   Secondary research reveals that unconditional cash and other types of assistance potentially attracts other IDPs and refugees and could be a pull factor for migration and displacements.

2. ***Pressure on job market***
   Existence and flow of more IDPs could put pressure on job markets in the local economy. This may result in reduction of wage for workforce as a whole and hence household incomes and expenditure.

3. ***Increase in undesired expenditure***
   The study does not take this into account, but cash assistance could increase undesired expenditure, e.g. Tobacco

4. ***Affecting relationships between IDPs and host community members***
   Providing assistance only to IDPs and ignoring the host communities could have impact on social relations between the two communities and may disturb the harmony. This could also result in increase of living costs for IDPs in the form of increase in house rents etc.

Overall, assistance through the project enhanced resilience of IDP households in the situation of crises and hence had a positive short-term impact on lives of IDPs and host community members.

Sustainability

Determining sustainability of unconditional cash assistance and other components of this project is out of the scope of this study. Furthermore, sustainability of short-term intervention in the form of cash assistance in the face of emergency crisis could not be measured at this stage. However, existing literature on unconditional cash assistance in rural Zambia suggest that such assistance had wide-ranging effects on ultra-poor households. Zambian government assisted each ultra-poor rural household with an amount of US$ 144 annually. After 3 years, the conditional cash assistance significantly raised consumption, food security and children's schooling and material well-bring[8]. The household spending has been estimated to 59% larger than the value of the transfer received, implying a considerable multiplier effect. The assistance has also strengthened economic capacity and assets in rural Zambia.

The 'access to safe drinking water' component of the project is expected to be sustainable and beneficiaries will continue to benefit from it. The completed water wells were properly handed over the community after completion. The local communities introduced their representatives to learn about repair of potential defects in boreholes. This knowledge transfer will ensure that the boreholes will be used and be operational even after closure of the project. In most areas, local communities formally handed over private land to ORD for the boreholes to be dug and installed. In case of public lands where some of the boreholes are dug, consent of government stakeholders was taken by ORD. It is worth mentioning that the risk of potential city expansion plans on locations of wells was not properly calculated by the project – some wells could be affected by such plans. One of the wells is constructed in such a way that disturbs general traffic.

Furthermore, one of the dug borehole has salty water that is not usable as potable water for humans and animals. Also, the depth of some of the boreholes are more than 60 meters (up to 80 meters, 5 boreholes in total). Experience of other NGOs in Faryab shows that hand-pumps hardly work properly in wells with more than 60 meters of depth. At the time of evaluation, hand-pump of a borehole was non-functional, and the community is not currently using water from this borehole. Last but not the least, boreholes are dug with diameters of 12 inches (4 boreholes) and 8 inches (8 boreholes). Findings of interview with KIIs show that the larger the diameters of boreholes, larger would be the water column and hence availability of water is increased.

To sum up, the sustainability of the cash assistance for IDPs in Faryab could not be determined at this stage and out of the scope of this evaluation. Contrariwise, 'access to safe drinking water' component is generally sustainable. However, if the current problems (mentioned above) are not resolved, the sustainability of the project is on the stake.

Lessons Learnt

- Broader communication and collaboration with the project stakeholders is required for similar projects, participated by the provincial government relevant professionals, CDC heads, community heads, and possibly female representative
- Promotion of dialogue with the local community is extremely important to ensure good use and putting in place sustainability measures
- Depth of each deep well based on the history of water and demand for drinking water
- Implementation of work should not take longer time as it was the case for a few areas
- Ensure IP's commitment to the Core Humanitarian Standards is integrated throughout the project life cycle

[8] Can unconditional cash transfers lead to sustainable poverty reduction? Evidence from two government-led programs in Zambia. Office of Research – innocenti Working Paper, WP-2016-21 | August 2016. UNICEF

CORE HUMANITARIAN STANDARD:

The Core Humanitarian Standard and Quality and Accountability (CHS) sets out Nine commitments that organizations and individuals involved in humanitarian response can use to improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance they provide. It also facilitates greater accountability to communities and people affected by crisis[9]. The study also aims to evaluate implemented project against these core humanitarian standards. The CHS defines nine commitments and quality criteria as:

1. Communities and people affected by crisis receive assistance appropriate and relevant to their needs.
   Quality Criterion: Humanitarian response is appropriate and relevant.

   As explained in sections above, both **components of the project were appropriate and relevant to the needs of target beneficiaries**. IDPs in Faryab were in ominous need for cash to satisfy their basic household needs and communities were severely affected by drought and hence in need of water and food. For selecting the sites for the wells, ORD conducted surveys in 9 municipal districts of Maimana city where IDPs were settled.

2. Communities and people affected by crisis have access to the humanitarian assistance they need at the right time.
   Quality Criterion: Humanitarian response is effective and timely

   The project interventions were timely and according to the needs of the IDPs in Faryab. Affected households received the cash assistance after their displacement and they needed it for satisfying their households' needs. Due to lack of snow and rainfall in the months of September-December in Faryab, the water table usually goes down. The water columns/table increases starting from January each year. The project intervention, thus, is made at the right time with appropriate depth of wells which will ensure availability of more water for users due to increase in water tables. The wells were handed over to communities at the time of severe drought hitting Faryab and benefited more than 5,000 families. The assistances were effective and timely, and the project hence lived up to this humanitarian core standard.

3. Communities and people affected by crisis are not negatively affected and are more prepared, resilient and less at-risk as a result of humanitarian action.
   Quality Criterion: Humanitarian response strengthens local capacities and avoids negative effects.

   None of the project components negatively impacted communities and IDP households, immediately. The cash assistance increased resilience of IDP households in Faryab and prevented them resort to harmful coping mechanisms. Access to safe drinking water for IDPs and host community members increased as a result of wells dug by project implementing partner (ORD). ORD also transferred the knowledge of 'maintaining' these wells to the community to ensure sustainability. Generally, assistance to a particular segment of the society only (e.g. IDPs) could potentially affect social relationships of IDPs and host community members, adversely and could create tensions between them. However, basic primary data does not support the concern and in-depth research on the topic was out of the scope of this evaluation. Overall, the project strengthened local capacities and avoided negative effects on target communities.

[9] Core Humanitarian Standard, Groupe URD, HAP international, PIN and the Sphere project, 2014

4. Communities and people affected by crisis know their rights and entitlements, have access to information and participate in decisions that affect them.
   Quality Criterion: Humanitarian response is based on communication, participation and feedback.

   Selection of beneficiaries for cash assistance and site selection for digging wells were done in close coordination with community elders, government and NGO stakeholders. The project components were communicated to beneficiaries and affected communities and efforts were made to increase participation of all stakeholders in the process. However, key informant interviews indicated that not all feedback provided during the coordination meetings were taken into consideration by ORD. Some of the feedbacks provided included: i) considering a distance of 500 meters between the wells, ii) difficulty in reaching target IDP households affected by drought (rather than conflict-induced), and iii) increase diameter of wells while digging from 8 to 10 or 12. Therefore, component II of the project (access to safe drinking water) does not meet this humanitarian core standard.

5. Communities and people affected by crisis have access to safe and responsive mechanisms to handle complaints.
   Quality Criterion: Complaints are welcomed and addressed.

   In-line with Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) guidelines, ORD established a complaint feedback mechanism to deal with problems occurred during project implementation and answer enquiries from beneficiaries. Complaints were collected through: i) establishment of complaint desk during cash distributions by ORD, ii) community elders, and iii) directly from beneficiaries using complaint boxes etc. In total, 18 complaints were received from beneficiaries that were addressed on time. The project, therefore, meets this core standard.

6. Communities and people affected by crisis receive coordinated, complementary assistance.
   Quality Criterion: Humanitarian response is coordinated and complementary.

   Unconditional cash component of the project was well coordinated with all stakeholders, including community elders and beneficiaries, to avoid duplication of assistance and complement already existing or potential assistances. In case of access to safe water component, though it was coordinated with stakeholders in the province, not all concerns were well addressed by ORD. Interview with stakeholders reveal that not all their feedbacks on site selection and wells' beneficiaries were taken into consideration. As a standard procedure, there should be at least a distance of 500 meters between the two wells in communities to decrease negative impacts on each other, reach maximum number of beneficiaries, and increase efficiency. This, however, was not considered by ORD in some locations. Furthermore, at least 1 of the wells dug has salty water and could only be used for washing dishes. It was raised by community members and government stakeholders to ORD, but no action was taken. Therefore, component II of the project (access to safe drinking water) partially meets this humanitarian core standard

7. Communities and people affected by crisis can expect delivery of improved assistance as organizations learn from experience and reflection.
   Quality Criterion: Humanitarian actors continuously learn and improve.

   ORD has extensive experience in humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan. The implementing NGO, implemented new approach of cash assistance (i.e. M-Paisa) in Faryab more effectively and efficiently as a result of learning from the past experiences. Stakeholders also commented on site selection for wells during coordination meetings and raised concern. It is worth noting that the risk of potential city expansion plans on locations of wells was not properly calculated by the

project – wells could be affected by such plans. Research indicates that site selection for similar public projects in the past was an issued and sometimes led to disputes over the project assets. This could have been a lesson-learnt for ORD before implementation of the project. Overall, it could be expected that the organization will learn from experience and will improve delivery of assistance in future.

8. Communities and people affected by crisis receive the assistance they require from competent and well-managed staff and volunteers.
   Quality Criterion: Staff are supported to do their job effectively and are treated fairly and equitably

   Key informant interviews with staff of ORD and DAP/DAARTT as well as beneficiary survey indicated that staff of these NGOs were well-managed and competent to extend assistance to target communities. Thus, the project meets this humanitarian core standard.

9. Communities and people affected by crisis can expect that the organizations assisting them are managing resources effectively, efficiently and ethically.
   Quality Criterion: Resources are managed and used responsibly for their intended purpose.

   As mentioned in sections above, the project was implemented using the most efficient methods and with responsibility. The project hence meets this core standard.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The evaluation of the project recommends general and topic-specific recommendations that could be considered by the donor/implementing agencies. General recommendations are:

- Broader communication and collaboration with the project stakeholders is required for similar projects. Comprehensive consultative process should be adopted before and during project implementation, that includes all relevant stakeholders from government, other NGOs, and community.
- Promotion of dialogue with the local community is extremely important to ensure sustainability of project outcomes
- Ensure Implementing Partner's commitment to integrate the Core Humanitarian Standards throughout the project life cycle

Unconditional Cash assistance

- Selection of right beneficiaries per the objectives of the project is of immense importance. The beneficiaries are to be selected using strict criteria, guided by project goals and objectives. More than three forth of beneficiaries were conflict-induced IDPs, not drought-induced who were the prime target of the project.
- Using mobile technology (M-Paisa) is among the most efficient approaches for cash distribution. Similar methods are recommended for similar interventions in future.
- Proper monitoring of the project during its implementation and reporting is necessary for tracking results.
- An impact and sustainability assessment of the project is recommended to guide future similar interventions

Access to safe drinking water

- For repair and maintenance of boreholes, it is recommended that a small fee is collected from community members regularly.
- Some of the NGOs with immense experience in well's digging use specialized toolkits to determine the quality of water before the digging. It is recommended to utilize these specialized toolkits before selection of the site for boreholes. An approximate cost of the toolkit is approximately $700.
- As a good practice, the length of the borehole ditch canal can be extended for about 10 meters, followed by a small reservoir. The collected water could then be consumed by the animals. This could be considered in future interventions.

ANNEX

I. Methodology

Given the project objectives and as outlined in project external evaluation ToR, OECD/DAC and Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) evaluation criteria is used for evaluating outputs, outcomes and potential impacts of the project. The methodology includes desk research and collection of primary data (quantitative and qualitative, where required) from the field to the extent possible. Specifically, following are being considered for conducting this evaluation:

A. Applying OECD /DAC evaluation criteria:

Where appropriate and applicable, the project team applied OECD/DAC and CHS evaluation criteria to evaluate this project. There criteria include:

1. *Relevance of intervention:*
   RCS collected primary data from project beneficiaries and other stakeholders of both project components, as well as undertook thorough secondary research to determine the relevance of project intervention in the area. Also, to understand whether the intervention was consistent with beneficiaries' and country's needs, and objectives of the donors and implementing partners. Please see annex II for complete list of stakeholders interviewed.

2. *Effectiveness:*
   Primary and secondary research was undertaken by RCS to determine the effectiveness of the project implemented, and whether set objectives are achieved after implementation.

3. *Efficiency:*
   RCS conducted research to measure the efficiency of the project and how resources are effectively used to produce outputs and outcomes. The team mostly relied on literature review for this purpose, rather than undertaking a thorough cost-benefit analysis.

4. *Impact:*
   Since the project just completed its implementation in December 2018, it is too early to calculate the impact of the project. However, the RCS project team roughly calculated potential impact of the project based on primary data collected from the field and already collected data.

5. *Sustainability:*
   The project is also evaluated for its sustainability, as explained in designated sections of this report.

B. Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability

Where appropriate and applicable, the project team also applied nine core humanitarian standards and Quality Criteria for this evaluation.

Pleases refer to (https://www.urd.org/IMG/pdf/Core_Humanitarian_Standard_-_English.pdf) for details.

C. Desk review

Given the nature of the study and constraints on traveling to the field, the RCS project team majorly rely on literature review for the evaluation. Relevant literature (project documents, work plan, M&E plan, evaluation reports etc.) were consulted for this evaluation, results of which fed in-to the final evaluation report. The literature review also assisted in determining information gaps that needed to be filled by primary data and guiding questionnaire design and fieldwork.

D. Primary research

The RCS project team, using telephones, collected primary data from the field to cross-check the findings and capture the reality on the ground. For this purpose, a two-stage sampling methodology was adopted by the project team;

i) For targeting beneficiaries of cash distribution, villages (where they currently live) were treated as clusters. Depending on population size (e.g. beneficiaries) of clusters, a number of beneficiaries from each cluster was targeted to provide primary data. Clustering was not possible in case of wells' beneficiaries because complete information of all beneficiary households, who are IDPs, were not available. The project team had to rely on the list provided by ORD. And
ii) Randomly selection of specific number of beneficiaries from each cluster, that is representative of the 'population'. For cash assistance, an excel formula (e.g. 'rand') was used to randomly selected beneficiaries from each cluster. Due to time constraints, approximately 20% of the total cash beneficiaries were selected for the interview. However, not all selected beneficiaries were interviewed due to: i) number switch offs, ii) no responses, and iii) language barriers. Targeting female beneficiaries was particularly difficult due to cultural sensitivities. Overall, 60 beneficiaries (40% females) were interviewed for this study who have received cash assistance.

   For wells' beneficiaries, 45 beneficiary households in total were randomly selected from the list provided by ORD.

   Apart from direct beneficiaries, interviews were conducted with Key ORD/DPA relevant staff, government and other NGOs' stakeholders, technical personnel and elders of the villages and target areas. In total, more than 25 Key Informant Interviews were conducted with relevant stakeholders.

E. Report Structure:

The structure of the report is such to include: lessons learned, recommendations and a proposed action plan from the experience of the intervention. The main report is consisted of the following headings:

a. Cover page
b. Executive summary
c. Methodology
d. General report, including analysis and findings
e. Recommendations & action plan
f. Time-table of consultant with references to stakeholders spoken to.
g. Annexes

II. List of interview respondents:

Table 1 | List of project stakeholders

Name	Designation	Organization / CDC Name
Abdul Rasoul	CDC Head	Yakkah Toot Deh Yazdan
Mula Jalil	CDC Head	Nawabad Khaja Paitakht
Abdul Rahim	CDC Head	Shah Baqi Khana (Payeen)
Abdul Ghafoor Temori	CDC Head	Afghan Koot
Sayed Barakatullah	CDC Head	Himmat Abad
Sultan Ahmad	CDC Head	Tokali Khana
Sayed Tajudin	CDC Head	Maidan-e Hawayee
Haji Naimatullah Muradi	CDC Head	Qutor
Haji Abdul Rashi	CDC Head	Yam Bolaq
Labib Shuqyar	Finance and Admin General Director	Department of Repatriation and Refugees (DoRR)
Haji Enayatullah Kohi	Director of Returnees and Re-integration	DoRR
Eng. Merwais Nabizada	General Manager Engineering Services	Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (DoRRD)
Eng. Matiullah	Engineer	DACAAR
Eng. Salahuddin Safi	Regional Director - Faryab	DACAAR
Eng. Khairullah Mohammadi	Damages and Need Evaluation Manager	Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA)
Abdul Qayoom	Head of M-Paisa branch - Mazar-e-Sharif	Roshan Telecom
Eng. Mohammad Saleem Kohi	Construction Coordinator	DAARTT / DPA
Eng. Habib-ur-Rahman	Project Manager	ORD
M. Nasim Yousufzai	Administration and Finance Manager	ORD
Eng. Sayed Habib ur Rahman Gailani	Site engineer	ORD
Eng. Hikmatullah	Site engineer	ORD
Eng. M. Hamid Salimzoy	M&E Manager	ORD
Eng. Tayebullah	External Colaborator	Local Community
Eng. Saifuddin	External Colaborator	Local Community

Table 2 | List of project beneficiaries (Cash assistance)

Name	District (original)	District (current)
Khalida	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Mohamad Nabi	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Kamila	Pashtoon Koot	Pashtoon Koot
Jamila	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Khodaidad	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Said AbdulRahman	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Shahri	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Alladad	Pashtoon Koot	Pashtoon Koot
Nadar	Shirin Tagab	Maimana City
Gul Zadah	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Zainullah	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Ghulam Rasool	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Fzal Haq	Khoujah Sabaz Posh	Maimana City
Mula Mahboob	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Ab Basir	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Mohammad Ebrahim	Khaja Sabz Posh	Maimana City
Borikhal	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Bismullah	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Aziza	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Badal Bibi	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Ab. Hakim	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Abdurrazaq	Pashtoon Koot	Pashtoon Koot
Hikmatullah	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Habiba	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Sid Akbar	Gur Ziwan	Maimana City
Rabiah	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Ab Baqi	kohistan	Maimana City
Tokhta	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Masuma	Gorziwan	Maimana City
Zainab	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Malalay	Gur Ziwan	Maimana City
Noor Bibi	Jawand	Maimana City
Gulzad	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Basmillah	Shirin Tagab	Maimana City
Raz Mohamad	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Mohammad Amin	Pashtoon Koot	Pashtoon Koot
Fahima	Khaja Sabz Posh	Maimana City
Hafizullah	Pashtoon Koot	Pashtoon Koot
Gul Dasta	Dawlat Abad	Maimana City
Abdullah	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Amina	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Mohamadullah	Khoujah Sabaz Posh	Maimana City

Mohamad Zaman	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Mahammad	Qaisar	Maimana City
Ab Hamid	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Mohamad Aman	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Ab Hamid	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Haji Moh Osman	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Najibullah	Kohsitan	Maimana City
Khir Mohamad	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Ziba	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Himatullah	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Nazar Mohamad	Kohistan	Maimana City
M.Zarif	Koistan	Pashtoon Koot
Baz Mohammad	Gorziwan	Maimana City
Hadia	Pashtoon Koot	Pashtoon Koot
Malika	Khoujah Sabaz Posh	Maimana City
Mohamd Nasim	Khoujah Sabaz Posh	Maimana City
Gul Barg	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City
Nasima	Pashtoon Koot	Maimana City

Table 3 | List of project beneficiaries (Boreholes)

Name	Village
Jawid	Shabaqi Khana
Ezatullah	Shabaqi Khana
Bashir	Shabaqi Khana
Sayed Arif	Shabaqi Khana
M.Azim	Shabaqi Khana
Shahab bay	Takali Khana
Lal Mohammad	Takali Khana
Sultan Ahmad	Takali Khana
Abdul Wahid	Takali Khana
Usta Nazri	Takali Khana
Norull haq	Afghan Koot
Ghulam Sakhi	Afghan Koot
Ahmad Farid	Afghan Koot
Qandi Gul	Afghan Koot
Fatima	Afghan Koot
Jamila	Afghan Koot
Mullah Jalil	Afghan Koot
Salaam	Yakkah Toot
Sher Mohamad	Yakkah Toot
Shafiq	Yakkah Toot
Sher Mohamad	Yakkah Toot
Abdul Aziz	Yakkah Toot
Gul Agha	Yakkah Toot
Sayed Zubair	Himmat Abad

Ahmad Bashir	Himmat Abad
Sayed Jalal	Himmat Abad
Sebqatullah	Himmat Abad
Mullah Hamidullah	Qutor
Haji Abdul mumin	Qutor
Sayed Zamanullah	Qutor
Sufi Ekram	Qutor
M. Nadir	Qutor
Saifurrahman	Qutor
Sayed Tajaddin	Maidan-e- Hawaei
Sayed Zainullah	Maidan-e- Hawaei
Aqa Mohamad	Maidan-e- Hawaei
Abdul Malik	Yambulaq
Fawad Malik	Yambulaq
Najibullah	Yambulaq
Abdul Ghafour	Nawabad - Khaja Paitakht
Lal Mohammad	Nawabad - Khaja Paitakht
Mullah Khalil	Nawabad - Khaja Paitakht
Nasrat Tullah	Nawabad - Khaja Paitakht
M. Ayoub	Himmat Abad
Ayoub	Himmat Abad