



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

# Support Afghanistan Livelihoods and Mobility (SALAM)

## (Project Initiation Phase)

2017 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTERLY PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT  
(March – June 2017)



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

## DONORS



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

## PROJECT INFORMATION

<b>Project Award ID:</b>	00094515
<b>Duration:</b>	2017-2021 Jan, 2017
<b>CPD Outcome\:</b>	Outcome 3: Economic growth is accelerated to reduce vulnerabilities and poverty, strengthen the resilience of the licit economy in its multiple dimension.
<b>Contributing to NPP:</b>	Legal and Institutional Frameworks to Manage Migration Flows Is Established
<b>UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome:</b>	Outcome 6: Early recovery and rapid return to sustainable human development pathways are achieved in post-conflict and post-disaster settings
<b>Total Budget:</b>	US\$120,000,000
<b>Funded:</b>	US\$ 4,891,304
<b>Unfunded Amount:</b>	US\$115,108,696
<b>2017 Annual Budget:</b>	US\$ 1,601,563
<b>Implementing Partner:</b>	Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs & Disabled (MoLSAMD)
<b>Responsible Parties:</b>	MoLSAMD
<b>Acting Project Manager:</b>	Mohammad Salim
<b>Chief Technical Advisor:</b>	Vacant
<b>Programme Unit Head:</b>	Laura Rio

**COVER PAGE:** SALAM project signing ceremony and first Project Board Meeting March 2107 chaired by H.E the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs & Disabled

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS .....	4
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	5
II. RESULTS .....	5
OUTPUT 1 .....	5
OUTPUT 2 .....	5
III. GENDER SPECIFIC RESULTS.....	7
IV. PARTNERSHIPS.....	7
V. ISSUES AND RISKS .....	8
VI. FUTURE PLANS.....	8
VII. ANNEX.....	9
<b>Annex 1:</b> Provisional Expenses by output.....	9
<b>Annex 2:</b> Project Organigramme .....	10

## ACRONYMS

ANPDF	Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework
DiREC	Displacement and Return Executive Committee
DoLSAMD	Directorate of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled
GoIRA	Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
IDPs	Internal Displaced Persons
ILO	International Labor Organization
MoLSAMD	Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled
SALAM	Support Afghanistan Livelihoods and Mobility
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Support Afghanistan Livelihoods and Mobility (SALAM) is a joint programme of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organisation (ILO) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD).

SALAM is funded by the Government of Finland. It aims at meeting the long terms livelihoods needs of returnees and internally displaced people (IDPs), especially those of women and youth in the wake of a massive return of Afghan people expelled from Pakistan.<sup>1</sup>It is defined by the close participation of the national and international private sector.

UNDP and MoLSAMD have signed the project document in March 2107. The project is in its initiation phase.

During the reporting period, SALAM completed a Migration Country Case Study on the state of irregular migration and how it is affected by the legislation along with a review of schemes in the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates as a representative of the Gulf Cooperation Council.<sup>2</sup>A significant message from the report and throughout the recommendations is for the Government to eliminate irregular migration and set up functional regular mechanisms, a challenging task in the face of very strong migration drivers.

## II. RESULTS

**OUTPUT 1:** Formalized institution structures in support of regular labor migration for Afghan women and men are established.

The project is in its Initiation phase, nothing to report under this output.

**OUTPUT 2:** National and international employment opportunities for women and men potential migrants and returnees in Kabul and five pilot provinces are increased

The project is in its Initiation phase, nothing to report under this output.

Below is a snapshot of where SALAM project stands in relation to its annual targets for Output 1 and Output 2 as of 30 June 2017.

<b>AWP Indicators</b>	<b>2017 Baseline</b>	<b>Q2 Targets</b>	<b>Actual Progress Q2</b>	<b>Status/comments</b>
1.1. a3. Number of MoLSAMD and other government officials trained on international standards and good practices on law / regulations and policy coherence	0	20	0	The project is in an Initiation phase and the implementation of

<sup>1</sup> Since 1 January 2016, over 775,000 undocumented Afghans have returned due to diverse push factors, including deteriorating protection space in Pakistan, April 2017 IOM.

<sup>2</sup> The study was initiated with seed funds from UNDP before SALAM start in March 2017 and is not included in the Annual Workplan

<sup>3</sup> 1.1. not targeted in 2017

1.1.b Extent to which national laws and regulations align with international labour standards (scale 0-10)	0	TBD	TBD	the actual activities has not been started yet. Therefore, no progress on the activities to report
1.1.c. e. % of increase of knowledge and understanding of the trained officials (scale 0-10)	0	8	0	
1.2. Number of BLAs on labour migration signed with countries of destination	0	2	0	
1.3. Number of contracts signed with employers / agents in destination countries each year (by country, by sector, by # of workers in demand letters)	0	2	0	
1.4. Average cost of migration in the Afghanistan - Saudi corridor, using ILO-World Bank methodology	0	TBD	TBD	
2.24 # of SALAM training program graduates, that are locally employed (M/F, by provinces)	0	400	0	
2.2. a Standardized courses and curricula developed	0	4	0	
2.2.b #of people trained in selected priority sectors	0	500	0	
2.6.5 Clients satisfaction from ESCs services provision (scale 1-10)	0	TBD	TBD	

## Initiation Phase Progress Summary

During this phase, UNDP and MoLSAMD initiated the recruitment of the Project Team.<sup>6</sup> The project could not recruit national and international staff for both project teams based in Kabul and Jalalabad. For national positions, most jobs require a combination of labour and migration skills that are difficult to find in country. Also, changes in the leadership (a new minister) in the Ministry delayed the process. MoLSAMD is the entity that recruits the national technical assistance staff.<sup>7</sup> For international positions, UNDP was unable to find the right profile. To manage this challenge and move forward with project implementation, the UNDP Livelihoods and Resilience (L&R) Team has taken over the work of the project team until the project team is on board.

Pertinent to the achievement of Output 1, establishment of formalized institution structures in support of regular labor migration, SALAM carried out a Labour Migration Study. The study recommends enforcement of existing regulations and standards and a “development” perspective in line with the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF), 2017-2021. The study was presented at the Migration Working Group hosted by the World Bank at its quarterly meeting in March.<sup>8</sup>

SALAM has also shared the study with the United Nations Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Person for a peer review. Based on the feedback received, SALAM and the World Bank have agreed to coordinate closely to sharpen the political economic analysis of

<sup>4</sup> 2.1. not targeted in 2017

<sup>5</sup> activities 2.3; 2.4; 2.5 not targeted during 2010/7

<sup>6</sup> Organigram attached in Annex 2. Gender Advisors; Sr. Technical Specialist Migration and IDPs, Sr. Technical Specialist TVE, Sr. Technical Specialist Private Sector and provincial positions, Provincial Coordinator, Business Development officer, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Officer, and field monitors.

<sup>7</sup> See Organigram Annex 2

<sup>8</sup> SALAM is a member of the Labour Migration Group, a group of partners and experts hosted by the World Bank collaborating to support GoIRA on the development of a labor migration management system in Afghanistan to increase employment opportunities for Afghans abroad and increase protections for workers while abroad. Members of the Group are the European Union (EU), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

the factors that affect irregular migration, the potential for regular channels and a deeper analysis of the institutional or human capacities that exist to implement legislation.

In February, to plan site identification and profile of returnees and IDPs, an interagency group consisting of UNDP, IOM, UNHCR as members of the Durable Solution Working Group (DSWG),<sup>9</sup> visited Nangahar Governor Office and two returnees and IDPs settlements. The UNDP Country Office visited Nangahar a second time in April to meet representatives of the Ministry of Labour, private companies and the Chamber of Commerce, present SALAM and discuss working modalities.

Under the aegis of the DSWG, SALAM has initiated a Labour Market Assessment for Jalalabad to identify opportunities for self-wage employment, enterprise and entrepreneurship development for returnees and IDPs.

### **III. GENDER SPECIFIC RESULTS**

No gender specific results have been achieved under the initiation phase. Thus, there is nothing to report. During the initiation phase, UNDP, ILO and UNHCR in cooperation with the representative of the Finland Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and MoLSAMD have included reference to sex-disaggregated data and information in the Annual Work Plan (AWP). This data, once collected, will serve to ensure that the training courses and curricula as well as counselling, and legal assistance for IDPs and returnees consider the needs of both women and men migrants and job seekers.

### **IV. PARTNERSHIPS**

During the initiation phase, UNDP, UNHCR and ILO, together with MoLSAMD, have utilized the DSWG as platform to position SALAM to support the development and implementation of the provincial response plans for internationally displaced people and returnees in line with the Afghanistan National Peace Development Framework and the National Priority Programmes.

The DSWG is a partnership of the Government, UN system, national and international organisations on humanitarian and development planning and implementation. The group serves as a facilitator for linking with the government structure i.e. high-level Displacement and Return Executive Committee (DiREC) to prioritize assistance needs and reintegration prospects of internally displaced people and returnees.

SALAM is also part of the Labour Migration Working group that aims to ensure coordination and among donors and avoid duplication of projects working on the labor sending system in Afghanistan, and to keep members up to date on relevant policy and event developments.

UDNP and ILO have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for joint implementation of the project.

---

<sup>9</sup> The DSWG is a partnership of UN agencies, Line Ministries, National and International NGOs that coordinates humanitarian and development stakeholders, initiatives and activities in Afghanistan with a view to developing a 'durable solutions strategy for returnees and IDPs. The DSWG is also a platform for information sharing and decision-making at the planning and programmatic levels, and between the national level and the field.

## V. ISSUES AND RISKS

**Delayed recruitment of Project Staff:** selected staff of the Livelihoods and Resilience Unit in the Country Office have been appointed exceptionally to work ad interim pending the recruitment of SALAM team. For national positions, UNDP will continue to work closely with MoLSAMD in long and shortlisting and interviews. For International positions, UNDP will headhunt and continue to widely advertise through multiple UN networks (with development and humanitarian agencies and with international organisations).

**Delayed HACT assessment:**

The preparation of an independent capacity assessment of MoLSAMD, a prerequisite for the choice of cash transfer modality, has been delayed mainly by changes in the leadership, the novelty of the assessment and internal differences in the Ministry on how to handle the release of data.<sup>10</sup> To manage the delays and support better understanding of HACT, UNDP has enlisted the direct support of the new Minister and Deputy Minister of MoLSAMD during a series of ministerial meetings. A focal point in MoLSAMD has been appointed for improved communication and coordination.

**Low delivery:** With the project team under recruitment, most the activities outlined in the 2017 AWP have not started yet. Financial delivery for the reporting period is 3.6 %. UNDP will intensify communication and coordination with MoLSAMD, especially on project action planning.

in 2017, UNDP does not plan to request additional payments/transfer under the Third-Party Cost-Sharing Agreement with Finland.

## VI. FUTURE PLANS

1. Recruit both national and provincial Project Team
2. Implement Labour Market Assessment in Jalalabad by ILO
3. Organise project inception workshop to finalise the project action plan and way forward
4. Revise procurement, HR and Annual Workplan
5. Finalise HACT Assessment and position paper for cash transfer modalities and risk management
6. Transfer funds to ILO under MOU for joint programming.

---

<sup>10</sup>The Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT). Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) establish common principles and process for managing cash transfers among UN agencies. It serves as a simplified set of procedures on requesting, disbursing, providing assurance, and reporting on funds to effectively manage risks, reduce transaction costs and promote sustainable development in a coordinated manner.



## VII. ANNEX

### Annex 1: Provisional Expenses by Output

<b>Project Output ID and Description</b>	<b>2017 Budget (AWP)</b>	<b>Expenses (01 Jan- 30 June 2017)</b>	<b>Delivery Rate</b>
<b>Output 1</b> (ID 00098662): Formalized institution structures in support of regular labor migration for Afghan women and men are established	572,631	29,152	5%
<b>Sub-total Output 1</b>	<b>572,631</b>	<b>29,152</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Output 2</b> (ID:00098663): National and international employment opportunities for women and men potential migrants and returnees in Kabul and five pilot provinces are increased	1,028,931	29,152	2.8%
<b>Sub-total Output 2</b>	<b>1,028,931</b>	<b>29,152</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,601,563</b>	<b>58,304</b>	<b>3.6%</b>

Note:

- i) The data contained in this report is provisional (Prorated salaries of UNDP staff in the Livelihoods and Resilience Unit were charged to project to perform SALAM that were to be performed by the project team). The financial data provided above is not complete, it is provisional and subjected to change by end of the year.
- ii) The income received in currency other than USD is approximated to USD based on UN- Operational Rate of

## Annex 2: Project Organigramme

